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Downton Abbey star Hugh backs Oban family's appeal

by Kathie Griffiths
 kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Downton Abbey star Hugh Bonneville is backing a 'last resort' patient transport fund set up in memory of an Oban woman.

The actor, best-known for playing the Earl of Grantham in the historical TV drama, posted the Justgiving details for North Argyll Carers Centre's Cherish Fund on social media after being contacted by a friend of Alyson Bowman's family.

The star also made a personal donation to the fund, which helps to transport patients to vital medical appointments when all other options have been exhausted.

Mum-of-two and former Oban High School pupil Alyson Bowman was just 33 when she lost a two-year battle with stomach cancer in 2007.

The Cherish Fund was started by her parents Jean and John Bowman, who wanted to help other people avoid 'a very difficult' journey back



John and Jean Bowman with the book the Downton Abbey cast has signed.

16_T45_JeanandJohnBowman

from a hospital appointment like their daughter had experienced just before her death.

The couple, who used to run Kilmelford's Shower of Herring restaurant and bar and still live in the Oban area, are having a second go at raising funds, with a book signed by all the cast of Downton Abbey. The Chronicles of Downton Abbey was given

to them by a guest Charmian Adam, who stayed with them when they ran a B&B at North Connel and was art director on the hit series.

Over the years since Alyson's death, her parents have raised more than £40,000 for the appeal but an earlier attempt to auction off the autographed book at Glasgow auctioneers McTears

did not meet the reserve price.

In the hope of boosting funds, the book is now being raffled off on justgiving.com/fundraising/north-argyll-carers-centre-cherish-fund-oban.

'Luckily I'd put a reserve on it. There was only one bid and that was £270. We thought we'd get more for it in Oban

but we've had it here ever since,' said Mrs Bowman.

People who make a donation on the Justgiving page by December 11 will automatically get the chance of winning the book with the lucky winner announced the next day.

Donations on the page have made more than £500, doubling the highest auction bid, but Mrs Bowman is hoping to get more. The suggested minimum donation is £2.

It was the Bowman's friend, Lia Crolla, who messaged Hugh Bonneville to see if he could help.

She said: 'I saw Hugh had 75,000 followers in America and Australia on social media and thought it might help if he put it on his links. I just messaged him and then an 'efficient elf' put it up for us. Soon after a £50 donation appeared on the Justgiving

page from a Hugh B, so I'm assuming it was him.

'It's a super prize, especially as the [Downton Abbey] film's just been out. It's got Hugh's and Maggie Smith's autographs in it as well as others in the cast - I want to win it!'

Mrs Bowman said: 'The hospital here does its best, but for specialist treatment people need to go to Glasgow. When someone is so fragile or someone is nearing the end of their life, it's not an easy journey to make if they can't get themselves there, if they don't have the where-with-all or don't have a car. If all else fails they can get transport through North Argyll Carers helped by the Cherish Fund but it can only be used as a last resort and can only be used so many times.

'Alyson was a mum at 17, she gave us two beautiful granddaughters. We set up The Cherish Fund as a legacy for her because she's not had a full time on Earth. We are doing it for her and are hoping good will come from it.'

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OT

Community in talks with Tralee Beach owners

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Trustees of a group which wants to put Tralee Beach in community hands are now in talks with the beauty spot's current owners.

There was a large turnout for a public meeting at Benderloch's Victory Hall last Thursday, with people listening to the latest up-date on the campaign to potentially buy the popular beach.

Trustees told the meeting they were having discussions with the beach's owners, who live outwith the area, and would soon have a bank account set up so they can start accessing funding.

Once the account is opened, the trustees can begin to look at the best way to proceed and start to get advice from national bodies about other schemes across Scotland that have completed successful leases or purchases of similar areas.

The next public meeting will be on Wednesday January 15 at 7pm in the Victory Hall.

The New Year meeting



will be to move discussions forward and decide on next steps.

Robin Harvey is one of the original trustees of the project, along with Tony Hall, and they have been joined by Jenny McLeish.

Mr Harvey said: 'The meeting on Wednesday was positive and we are slowly moving forward towards our goal of owning the beach, the common grazings and some woodland. This will provide us with opportunities for improving and conserving the machair area, as well as the old gravel workings. These

have become a haven for all sorts of wildlife, with many birds breeding there, some of which are scarce in Argyll and Bute.

'This area, along with the beach and the woodland, are excellent places for children from Lochnell Primary School to learn about nature.

A bird hide and nature trails are just some of the possibilities if we are able to buy the land.

The grazing rights of the crofters and public access on foot will be retained.'

Tralee Beach attracts thousands of visitors every

A buyout will allow the community to improve and conserve the machair area and old gravel workings.

year. When Argyll and Bute council allowed thousands of tons of sand and gravel to be extracted from it in the 1980s as infill for the £1.4million Oban railway pier 32 years ago, it triggered worldwide uproar from environmentalists who put a stop to it.

It made headlines again two years later when the then Highland landlord Hugh MacColl and his Surrey-based sister prohibited people from trespassing on their land by carving 'a gaping chasm' across the access road to the beach.

Last year an action group, with a view to becoming a community trust, was set up to have a say on how the beach and woodlands nearby are developed and to stop any future removal of sand and gravel.

The current landowners still have mineral rights for the beach and land owned by crofters.



Innes is raising money for Martyn's Monday Club.

Oban man to run Fort to Oban for Martyn's Monday Club

Before running a marathon, people train for months and months, but one Oban man has given himself just four weeks to run almost two, writes David McPhee.

Innes Hughes has set himself the mammoth task of running from Fort William to Oban, almost 45 miles, in a bid to raise money for Martyn's Monday Club.

Innes originally wanted to carry out the challenge in 2017 after three months of training, however, the month before he was to set off, he was involved in a car accident.

He said the accident put him off running something of that magnitude, adding: 'But it has bugged me ever since that I never did it. So I've decided within the last few weeks that I'm going to run it but this time with only a month to train.'

Innes currently runs around six miles every other day and says this challenge will take everything he has, and more.

'This will be something completely out of my comfort zone and will be single-handedly the hardest thing I have ever done by a long shot,' he said.

The 21-year-old will be setting off at 5am and aims to arrive in Oban around 5pm on the final Saturday of Oban Winter Festival, November 23. He chose to raise money for Martyn's Monday Club, a mental health support group, as he admits he has suffered his own 'ups and downs'.

He said: 'I'll be raising money for Martyn's Monday Club - a fantastic Oban support group for people who feel like they need help in any sense. So who better to raise money for than a charity I can completely connect with.'

So far Innes has raised more than £300 for the charity.

To donate, visit www.just-giving.com/crowdfunding/innes-hughes

There will also be fundraising buckets at Oban Station Square for when he arrives.

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Remembering Mull's fallen

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Hundreds of people are expected to pack Tobermory's Ledaig Car Park on Saturday to take part in Mull Remembers.

This will be the event's second year in which islanders and visitors of all ages have gathered to pay their respects.

It starts at 7pm on November 9 and will see pictures of Mull people who went to war being projected on the wall of the harbour building as part of the emotional evening.

Pupils from Tobermory High School will take the lead and it will also feature their pipe band. Ex-marine commando AJ Mcleod will read war poem The Fallen and at the end of each verse the phrase We Shall Remember Them will be read in seven different languages, including Gaelic and Italian, paying tribute to all the fallen.

The high school choir and Còisir òg Mhuile, the young gaelic choir from Tobermory and Salen primary schools, will also be singing.

And retired teacher Jack Degnan will be paying a special tribute to former Bunessan primary and Oban High School pupil, Private Robbie McLaren, marking 10 years since his death serving with The Black Watch, 3rd battalion of The Royal Regiment of Scotland in Helmand.

Private McLaren was killed on June 11, 2009, by an improvised device as he charged forward to support his 'imperilled' colleagues.

There is a plaque remembering Private McLaren at



This is the second year Mull has held this service.

Oban High School and also one for Royal Marine Gordon MacPherson from Oban who was killed in the Falklands Conflict 37 years ago – they both died before their 21st birthdays.

A member of Tobermory's young firefighters scheme will also give a reading and Holly MacLean will be singing Going Home, accompanied by a piper.

The event, expected to last around 40 minutes, will end with a two-minute silence and the Last Post.

Aros Hall will be open after for teas and coffees.

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Mary-Jean Devon said: 'Last year we had 300 people; this year will be another emotional evening. It will be a multi-cultural and interfaith event for all the community. Everyone is welcome.'

Tobermory's Dad's Army will also be remembering fallen heroes out at sea this weekend.

The volunteers who fundraise for Poppyscotland and veterans' mental health

charity Combat Stress will be casting a poppy wreath into the waves from CalMac's Kilchoan ferry on Saturday in memory of the Atlantic convoys that left Tobermory during the Second World War.

For the first time, the public is being invited to join in the ceremony.

In previous years the town's lifeboat and tourist boats have helped with the honours but space has been limited.

The sea-bound ceremony was started 20 years ago by Colonel Ken Walker, now 90.

He said: 'We are very grateful to CalMac which is helping us this year.'

'If people would like to join us, they would be very welcome,' said Col Walker, who, along with other volunteers, has been selling poppies for Poppyscotland in Tobermory's main street this week.

MV Loch Linnhe will leave Tobermory at 1pm. CalMac is supporting the group with a free passage to lay the wreath mid channel, said a CalMac spokesman.

Ardfern mums set up baby bank to help empower parents

Two mums from Ardfern have set up a 'baby bank' to ensure new parents from Oban to Campbeltown are not left without essentials, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Bonnie Stephen and Clair Smith started Tiny Treasures Baby Bank after noticing a need in the surrounding areas.

'Between us we have seven children and like any one of you reading this each have our own stories of what life can throw at you when raising precious little ones and how challenging it can be,' they said.

'After seeing 100 baby banks open up across the UK and seeing first hand the need in our own local area, we decided to launch Tiny Treasures Baby Bank to equip families from Oban to Campbeltown, who, for whatever reason, find themselves unable to obtain even the basics.'

On the project's Facebook page, Bonnie and Clair, who



Bonnie Stephen with her little ones.

are the first point of contact for Tiny Treasures, said: 'Through Tiny Treasures we want you to feel empowered in caring for your little one and one small part of this is to equip you with some of the items that you might need over the first year of your little one's life as well as some new mum essentials.'

People can be referred to Tiny Treasures through a variety of different routes, such as midwives, health

visiting teams, emergency housing officers, Hope Kitchen in Oban, the Red Cross in Campbeltown, and also through the police.

However, as it can be 'daunting' to ask health care professionals for help in this manner, the Tiny Treasures also accepts self-referrals.

To find out more, or to donate, search Tiny Treasures Baby Bank on Facebook or find them by going to www.tinytreasuresbabybank.co.uk

POLICE FILES

■ About 1.50pm on October 28, a property was searched under warrant in Alma Crescent, Oban. A man, 37, was arrested and charged with allegedly allowing his property to be used for people to take controlled drugs.

■ About 4.30pm on October 31, near Argyll Square, Oban, a 16-year-old boy was allegedly approached by a man who threatened him. Police are investigating the incident.

■ About 9pm on October 28, a road crash occurred on the Beallach-an-Righ, Oban,

where a car collided with a service bus. The occupants of the car made off prior to police arrival. A 32-year-old man was later traced and charged with failing to identify the driver of the car.

■ On October 31, two houses in the Dunbeg area were searched and a 19-year-old woman and a 20-year-old man were allegedly found to be in possession of a substantial amount of controlled drugs. Both were arrested for allegedly being concerned in the supply of controlled

drugs and released to appear at court on a later date.

■ About 7am on November 2 a road crash occurred on the A828 near to Appin. A man, aged 20, was charged with careless driving.

■ About 4.45pm on November 2 on the A85 near to Bridge of Orchy, a motorist was stopped for allegedly exceeding the speed limit. The male driver, 21, was allegedly found to be in possession of a number of offensive weapons and was arrested. He will appear at court on a later date.

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OT

Fantastic Oban fireworks



More than £8,000 of fireworks illuminated Oban Bay on Tuesday night, with some of the estimated crowd of 4,000 saying it was the best firework display they have seen, writes David McPhee.

However, spectators were left saying 'is that it?' after the first minute, when a cluster of fireworks went off at once. Some thought it was a mistake, others said it was because of the boat coming into the bay but, in reality, it was a cunning ploy organised by BID4Oban.

BID wanted to recreate the infamous 'Obang' display in 2011, which saw all the fireworks being set off within a minute by mistake.

Video footage of that display has since been seen by millions of people online.

This year's firework night received a £6,000 boost from a Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Communities award.

The company also had a stall at the station and were handing out ECO cups.



There were plenty smiles on Tuesday night as thousands of pounds worth of fireworks lit up Oban Bay.



Hundreds enjoy another 'brilliant' Dunbeg bonfire and firework night

Hundreds of people descended upon Dunbeg for the annual community bonfire and firework night, writes David McPhee

The 'brilliant' event attracted more than 500 people to the packed Lochnell Road car park.

The community fundraiser featured a raffle, burger and bottle stalls, the Oban FM roadshow, as well as a special appearance from the Oban High School Pipe Band, Peppa Pig, as well as Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

James McDonald, organiser, said: 'It was a brilliant night. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we raised approximately £2,500. The cost of the fireworks will have to come off that and the remainder will be split



The bonfire and fireworks event was a huge success.

between Oban High School Pipe Band and the Dunbeg Development Group (DDG).'

James is also a part of the DDG, which aims to create a village hall for the community.

He said a lot of effort went in to putting on an event such as the bonfire and

fireworks night, adding: 'Personally, I took three days holiday from work to get it all up and running and the bonfire built, but there are a lot of people who helped.'

He estimated that there were around 500-600 people at the event, 'maybe more'.

When asked if the event would be returning next year, James said: 'I don't see why not', adding: 'Thanks to everyone who helped out and put in the time and effort.'

'We have to fund raise for this ourselves. We don't get any grants. It's a real community effort.'



MOREPHOTOS
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Argyll carriage driving group needs new home

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A carriage driving group for the disabled is looking for a new home.

For more than a decade, the Argyll Riding for the Disabled Carriage Driving Group has happily made itself at home at Baravullin Beag near Benderloch, but now the time has come for it to move on to pastures new.

The group has got until this time next year to move but the search for new stables and land is proving a challenge, says the chairman of the group's trustees Michael Hawke.

Around 40 members and volunteers come from as far as Fort William and Tayvallich to go out on the group's two ponies and three carriages based at the home of their hosts Jane and Hamish Isaac.



'It's been a very successful group, with a lot of people over the years getting an enormous amount of fun from it. People get such satisfaction from driving carriages, regardless of their disability. We are hugely grateful to Jane and Hamish for having us and would

dearly like to continue there but appreciate their need too,' said Mr Hawke.

Over the last few months, the group's organisers have been hunting for a new location but have had no luck so far.

'We haven't dismissed the idea of reforming with

RDA volunteer Gail MacGregor was recognised for her exceptional support given to the Argyll Carriage Driving Group.

the Riding for the Disabled group up at Glencruitten's Achnalarig Stables but there's nowhere to drive the carriages out - except for the little track,' added Mr Hawke.

From their Benderloch home, carriages are driven down to the beach at Tralee and back.

Ideally the group needs space to house the ponies, carriages and tack.

'We don't have vast amounts of money but we could get enough to build a stable block. Essentially it's the land we need and for someone happy for us to be there and do our work. Somewhere to ride out to would be good too.

'It costs us around £8,000

a year to run the group after vets and feed and other costs. It's not cheap. We're keeping our fingers crossed that someone out there will be able to help. We haven't given up hope yet but if we don't succeed it's the end of the carriage driving.'

The group had looked at a potential site near Ardfern but it was too close to a busy main road.

Anyone who can help, should email Mr Hawke at mgrph@outlook.com

Last month two of the group's volunteers, Vivienne Price and Gail McGregor, were presented with excellence awards by HRH Princess Anne for 'over and above volunteering' at the 2019 Scottish SUPRA Regional Conference in Bishopton. Group member Juliet Hawke also presented the Princess with a bouquet.

Ganavan toilet closure complaint

The public toilets at Ganavan Sands are now closed for the winter, but the decision has been condemned by a local resident.

The woman, who wished to remain anonymous, got in touch with The Oban Times after watching people looking for somewhere to relieve themselves.

She said: 'There are five mini-buses of children and lots of people walking on the beach with their dogs. Parkrun - there are 50 plus people that go to that and there is no toilet.

'They refuse to open it in the winter. The people of Oban have a right to use the facilities. It should not just be for tourists in the summer.'

An Argyll and Bute spokesperson said: 'The Ganavan toilets are closed for winter. The system has to be drained to prevent the pipes freezing during the cold weather, bursting and causing damage.

'They will reopen again in the spring.'



Bakers and home produce makers are being asked to get their entry forms in by tomorrow (November 8).

Hungry for prizes? Make sure you get your Winter Festival entry forms in now

Bakers and home produce makers are being reminded to get their entries in for Oban Winter Festival, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Tomorrow, Friday November 8, is the last chance to get forms in to organisers who are working up an appetite for the contests at this year's event.

For the first time, 2019 is introducing a new boozy jam class for men only.

As well as other tasty treats, including shortbread, the best Clootie Dumpling championship is up for grabs again on Sunday November 17 at the Corran Halls.

Last year's gold and silver prize winner got such a taste

of success that she went on to start up her own business making the traditional dried fruit pudding, said one of the organisers.

Tempted to enter? Either pick up a form from West Coast Motors or download it online from obanwinterfestival.com

A last shout out is also going to shops and businesses in the town to light up and dress up their windows in time for the festival's opening night on Friday November 15. This year's theme is Fantasy Frost and Fairytales. The Winter Queen will be passing through the streets at 5pm waving her wand to work her magic.

Winter Woods will also be illuminating Glencruitten that weekend; tickets are £6.50 for adults, £3.50 for children and free for under twos. The minibus shuttle leaves from Shore Street.

Young people wanting to show off their talents are also being invited to get in touch with organisers to take part in the Young Entrepreneurs event at Oban Distillery on St Andrew's Day, Saturday November 30, from noon to 4pm.

Woodworker Ben Selfridge, who set up his own business after craft lessons at Lochgilphead High School was offered an apprenticeship after last year's showcase day.

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OT

Pastures new for Hope manager, Lorraine

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



After four years at the helm, Hope Kitchen's service manager has decided to move on to pastures new.

Lorraine King helped the Oban charity grow from a small space into a bespoke building, helping thousands of people in the process.

Hope Kitchen aids the most vulnerable people in the community by providing advice, food, comfort, and company in a safe space.

Speaking to The Oban Times about the last four years, Lorraine said: 'I originally went to Hope on a charity career break from the NHS for a year. I was a district nurse for six years before that.'

'The year flew in and I just loved it so much that I gave up my NHS job and went to work



for Hope. Funding wasn't even secure then but I loved the way that I was able to help people on the spot – whether they needed housing advice, health advice, a listening ear, a cuppa or a food parcel.'

Things stepped up a gear for the Oban charity after it secured funding. This enabled Hope to move from its small premises in Argyll Street, to

refurbishing a former shop on Soroba Road and making the space its own.

'We got a grant from The Big Lottery so that gave us some security and we planned our move to New Hope,' Lorraine added. 'I could really see the potential for expanding what we could offer and the number of people we could help. New Hope has really been a

Lorraine King's new job is operations manager for the Isle of Luing Community Trust. 15_T07_hope1_Lorraine

bleeding for the community.

'Our visitor numbers more than doubled in less than a year and in our first year we had 10,000 people through the doors of New Hope.'

'One of the most amazing bits has been working with some fantastic volunteers over these past four years. People who selflessly give their time and energy and love to everyone who walks through the doors.'

While Lorraine is leaving Hope, she will be continuing her community work.

The former Lismore resident will be starting as operations manager for the Isle of Luing Community Trust.

'[The] trust has employed me to help it to revitalise and

reinvigorate the community on Luing.

'It has an amazing new centre, the Atlantic Islands Centre, and my job is to take it into its next phase, just like I did at Hope.'

Lorraine added: 'I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in my role at Hope – the community, all the local agencies which opened their doors to us and worked with us to make people's lives better. Local businesses which helped with donations of anything and everything. I cannot thank people enough for everything they've done for Hope – all the support has gone directly to those in our community who really need it.'

Catriona Petit is currently serving as interim service manager at Hope, until a permanent replacement is appointed.

Report on cracked wall sent to Transport Scotland

Council officials who checked a crumbling wall holding up a scenic cycle path at Benderloch are recommending repairs.

Argyll and Bute structural engineers inspected the wall close to the A828 on Monday and their findings have now been passed to Transport Scotland. Although the council is not revealing full details, it is recommending remedial work needs to be carried out.

Cracks appearing in the retaining wall are worrying the community, with many people fearing the A828 could be at risk. If the road collapsed, it would force a 93-mile detour via Tyndrum, Glencoe and Ballachulish.

High tides mean water is getting in behind the cracks, eroding the soil at the back, leaving hollow gaps which are filling up with weeds.

It is not clear who will be responsible for repairs – the wall does not show up on Argyll and Bute Council's assets map and both Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland have previously said it is not their responsibility.

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Quizzes and Winter Festival fun

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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WHERE IS THIS?



Halloween and fireworks over, it's time for the next event to entice us out of our warm houses and the Cancer Research Quiz is a must tomorrow (Friday November 8), in the Masonic Hall at 7.30pm.

It's always one of my favourites whether I win or not; it's the taking part that counts apparently. Quiz Master Tony Cave certainly knows how to set some challenging questions and the prizes and raffle are excellent too.

We're lucky in Oban to have a few hostellers offering quizzes on a weekly or bi-weekly basis and they're all worth a visit. The Lorne on a Wednesday, Markie Dans on a Sunday and every second Thursday in The Oban Inn – between them and the charity quizzes that are run you could be out almost every night.

Bingo seems to be the new big thing as well with The View running charity bingo nights and regular bingo run in Soroba Community Centre. I'd love to see The Dove Centre holding another

of its bingo events in The Argyllshire (hint, hint) as they're really good fun. Lots to be going on with and lots to look forward to as well, with Oban Winter Festival drawing even closer.

The programme is now on its website and again you could be out all day and all night during the festival if you wanted as it gets bigger and better every year. If you have Harry Potter-loving children then have a look at the Wizard School Murder, Mystery lunch at the Columba Hotel on Saturday. After the success of the last event this one promises to be exciting for adults and children alike.

On a more serious note we're approaching

Remembrance Day again with a Garden of Remembrance on the Esplanade next to West Coast Motors where you can place crosses tomorrow (Friday November 8) at 3pm and Monday 11th at 11am. There will also be the Remembrance Day Service at 10.50am on Sunday, November 10, with the parade leaving the Corran Halls at 10.30am. Adult and youth groups are welcome to join the parade and congregate at the Corran Halls at 10am.

Last week's photograph was of the bike rack at the corner of Stevenson Street; for this week's the where isn't too hard but I thought the message appropriate.

West coast shellfish farmers win top industry accolades

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



Scotland's mussel and oyster farmers descended on Oban last week to take part in the annual Best Scottish Shellfish competition and conference.

The event attracts people from all over the world, with the competition broken down into three categories: native oyster, rock oyster, and mussels.

Lochnell Oysters won this year's native section, while Isle of Barra Oysters topped the rock category.

Inverlussa, from the Isle of Mull, were again chosen to have the best mussels.

Speaking about the triumph, John Hamilton of Lochnell Oysters said it was 'superb' to win, while Gerard MacDonald, from Barra Oysters, said: 'It is nice to know you are winning against people who are pro-



Left, John Hamilton of Lochnell Oysters and Gerard MacDonald from Barra Oysters 17_t45 ShellfishOban03; and above, the event raised £670 for the RNLI. 17_t45ShellfishOban02

ducing good stuff.' The pair were delighted to walk away with a commemorative plate each.

The two-day event is held in the Corran Halls, Oban, hosted by the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers (ASSG).

The conference was opened

by Mairi Gougeon MSP, minister for rural affairs and the natural environment.

Ms Gougeon spoke about the resilience of Scottish shellfish cultivation and the need for a growing, successful industry.

Nick Lake, ASSG executive director, said: 'Our annual

conference is always well attended and brings shellfish farmers and allied industries into the heart of shellfish farming country for two days of lively dialogue, discussion and debate.

'This also presents the opportunity for policy makers and government to engage

with what is a rural and expanding sector with proven potential to contribute to the economic success of coastal communities and safeguard the marine environment.'

Over the course of the event, a number of speakers took to the stage, such as Ben Wright, who brought the first day to a close, fresh off the back of judging in the shellfish competition, speaking about

his successful mission to reignite Britain's historic love affair with the oyster – his restaurants now serve more than 250 tonnes every year.

The conference also features a number of trade stands, with many local companies represented.

One vital organisation in attendance was the RNLI, which benefited from £670 raised by way of a raffle.

Oban garden club tastes success

A college gardening club is cultivating links with the community, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Every week Argyll college tutor Elspeth MacDonald works with groups of students with additional needs who dig in and have fun.

The Wings Gardening Group sells on its home-grown produce so the public can get a taste.

Combie Street's Taste of Argyll shop is one of its biggest fans. Shop owner Katherine MacKenzie said: 'Their fruit and veg just fly off the shelves. It's great knowing that the money they get for them goes straight back into regenerating the garden for next year's crops.'

Mrs MacDonald said; 'Katherine is just brilliant. She doesn't mind if 10 of us crowd in to the shop when we deliver our produce. It's all washed and ready before hand. It's also a really good way of teaching the group about life skills and numeracy.'

Help to keep the garden growing has also come from other businesses in the area, said Mrs MacDonald.



Zoe Sutherland, Shona Campbell and Marion McArthur have been busy in the garden.

16_T44_gardeninggroup01-Argyllcollege

Jewsons donated wood and screws to fix the up the fruit cage; Craigard Decor gave paint to brighten up the raised beds and Taynuilt Trees gave students a VIP tour of its nursery. Poppies Garden Centre past Dunbeg and Rembrandt Timber have also helped and the group also paid a visit to Ardmaddy gardens this summer to look at its plants.

The keen gardeners try to keep everything they grow on the college site pesticide free and in the polytunnel next to the thriving strawberry bed and herbs is a patch of corn about 12ft high. Any money we make from selling our produce

goes back into the garden to help buy more seeds and compost although we use manure and seaweed as much as we can to try and keep everything pesticide free,' said Mrs MacDonald. 'Getting support from the community means lots to us and we're always looking for new partners to help,' she added.

Most of the group members come via Oban services like the Affinity Trust based in Glenshellach Rd and can bring along their carers too.

In the run up to Christmas, the group will also be making festive wreaths to sell at this year's Oban Winter Festival.



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- Breakfast:** Asparagus and roast pepper muffins: Savoury 'muffins' are ideal for breakfast, and the whole family will love them.
- Lunch:** Tuna melt toastie: Stir diced red onion through drained canned tuna in spring water. Lightly toast 2 slices wholemeal bread from a small 400g loaf. Spoon the tuna mixture onto 1 slice, press down with the back of the spoon, then add 30g cheddar cheese, grated. Top with the other piece of toast and grill until the cheese is gooey.
- Dinner:** Pork Schnitzel with sauerkraut & roasted new potatoes: Take 8 tender pork escalope (visible fat removed) and generously coat in herb infused breadcrumbs, make a creamy sauerkraut dressing and roast the new potatoes with a low cal spray. Serve the schnitzels with the sauerkraut and potatoes, sprinkled with parsley and black pepper. Yum!
- Snacks:** Settling down at home to watch a movie? Get the cinema feel with a 25g bag of Propercorn Sweet Coconut & Vanilla Popcorn (6 Syns)

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Detailed recipes available at:
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OT

Binman's calendar puts focus on Mull charities

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



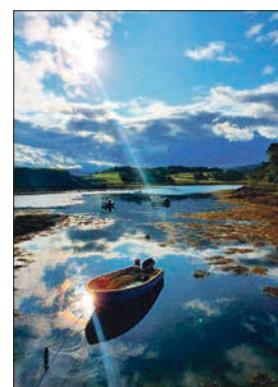
Mull binman Colin Morrison, whose online snapshots of home have become a global hit, has revealed six charities in the frame to benefit from his 2020 calendar.

The 48-year-old, who has been working the world's most scenic rubbish round for more than a decade, originally ordered just 500 copies of the calendars featuring his best shots of stunning Mull, but they sold out in just one day. Due to popular demand, including far flung requests from New Zealand and America, he has now ordered 1,500 more.

The extra calendars will be available in Mull shops soon, and Colin's chosen charities in line for a share of money



Colin Morrison uses his phone to take these stunning photographs as he does his rounds on Mull.



raised are Tobermory's Christmas lights and New Year fireworks, the island's hospital – which looked after his dad – Tobermory pipe band, the Army Cadets and Dervaig School playground project.

'It's thanks to all the support I've had from about 30 of the island's businesses that I've been able to make

the calendars and the money will all be going back into the community,' said Colin, adding: 'I'm hoping to get them into the shops in time for people to get them as Christmas presents.'

Chairperson of Dervaig Primary School Parent Council Tracy Mayo said: 'It's brilliant Colin has thought of our playground

project, it's very much appreciated and extremely kind of him.

'The wider community is also being a big help. We're grateful for any support and donations.'

Colin, from Tobermory, who now has thousands of Facebook followers, always has his phone handy on tea-breaks ready to capture all

the island's glory whatever the weather.

'I'm spoiled for choice most days, whatever the weather,' he said.

'Mull and Iona are beautiful all year round; although the weather's been kind to us this year, so I've been trying to post a picture every few days or so on my Facebook page,' said Colin, who only

started taking photos when he got a 'half-decent' phone.

Pictures posted on A binman's view of Mull and Iona this weekend were shots from the Dervaig bin run, taking in blue skies over Croig and Cailaich.

Colin's growing fan base around the world also includes the House of Commons. Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara sent him a personal thank you letter for having 'hugely boosted Mull's visibility'.

As he hails from Tobermory, the bustling harbour town wins when it comes to the perfect picture spot, but Aros Mains is another firm favourite.

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Mary has now been nominated for the Best Scottish Artisan Food Award.

Mary's bread proves good for awards

Luing baker Mary Braithwaite is rising to the occasion yet again.

Hot on the heels of winning silver and bronze awards for her bread at this year's Royal Highland Show, Mary has now been nominated for the Best Scottish Artisan Food Award in the Scottish Rural Awards.

The trained archaeologist, who previously ran a Kent bakery with her husband Nigel before moving to Luing in 2015, bakes from a purpose-built bakery constructed next to their home.

Since living on the island, Mary has been developing breads that include grains that used to be grown on Luing, especially barley and oats. Her other breads include

rye, spelt and an ancient form of barley called beremeal. Textured Hebridean sourdough with toasted pinhead oatmeal is proving popular at the moment with the mid-week and Saturday morning butteries being a treat that is looked forward to on the island.

Mary's bread can be found at Millstone health food shop in Oban's High Street, at Luing Stores and she supplies the Atlantic Islands Centre.

'We're so small-scale that it really is a huge honour to have been nominated for this award,' said Mary.

The Best Scottish Artisan Food Award recognises enterprise, innovation and dedication in rural Scotland's small and medium scale

food producers and retailers. Last year the accolade was scooped by Mull organic biscuit bakers, The Island Bakery.

Artisan producers must understand and respect the raw materials they work with and be mindful of the impact of their products on the environment.

The Scottish Rural Awards are the ultimate benchmark of success in Scotland's countryside. In its sixth year, the prestigious awards are partnered by Scottish Field Magazine and the Scottish Countryside Alliance.

There are 14 awards which will be announced at the ceremony hosted by farmer comedian Jim Smith on April 2.



Saving The Waverley goes on road

The Save The Waverley-Boiler Refit Appeal is going on the road.

To raise more awareness and to support the £2.3 million appeal, a number of events have been organised for this month in Oban, Inveraray and Helensburgh.

The Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, owner of Waverley, has organised the events, which include a talk, display of large scale working model steamers and sales of Waverley gifts and souvenirs and the opportunity to meet with members of the society, and perhaps to join.

The Helensburgh event is at 5pm on Thursday November 14 in the Commodore Hotel, with a talk on the Craigendoran Steamers and the large-scale model of PS Jeanie Deans on display.

Next is Inveraray, sponsored by Inveraray Inn, with a talk about The Pier and the steamers which used it, along with two large-scale models of the Turbine steamers Duchess of Hamilton and King George V.

This event will take place in the Inveraray Inn on Saturday November 12 from 11am-5pm.

Last in this tour is Oban, at the CalMac Ferry Terminal, on Saturday November 30, from 11am-4.30pm, with Waverley Souvenir sales, appeal merchandise, the large-scale model of RMS King George V, which many will remember as the Staffa and Iona excursion ship until 1972.

Iain Quinn will be on hand to discuss the Oban steamer services and to show a film of Waverley in the Hebrides.

Since the appeal was launched in June more than £2 million has been raised, although more is required to reach the final target.

Donations can still be made to the Boiler Refit Appeal directly through the waverleyexcursions.co.uk website or by calling 0141 243 2224.

Archaeologists dig in to Isle of Torsa's past

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Archaeologists are on a small island off Luing this week digging into its past.

Helped by volunteers from Luing History Society, a team from the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists (ACFA) are spending seven days on Torsa in the hope of discovering more about farming life long ago.

Dugie Macinnes is leading the survey and is keeping his fingers crossed that the survey will come up with discoveries that will rival finds from previous explorations and excavations on Luing that are almost complete.

On Luing, 400 previously-unrecorded sites and features, including prehistoric roundhouses, a promontory fort and dun, a mill complex,



old settlements and evidence of its farming and quarrying past have been uncovered during ACFA projects in collaboration with the history group.

Exploration on Torsa will involve lots of patience and walking, carefully inspecting the ground on the lookout for signs of structures or human activity. Even the slightest

bump, hollow or arrangement of stones could be significant.

The team has been waiting until this time of year when bracken and vegetation die back.

Each feature they find will be recorded, measured and photographed with particularly interesting features being drawn to scale.

The task of this week's

Start of the first day on Torsa.

survey is to try and find out where Torsa's past inhabitants lived and farmed.

The island had five tenants and their families growing arable crops and raising livestock, but change set in after 1805 when the landowning Earl of Breadalbane more than doubled the rent.

Most tenants fell into arrears and by 1841 there were only two farms and 24 inhabitants left.

During the survey the northern end of the island, Eilean na h'Eaglaise translating as Church Island, will also be searched for clues to its past.

'Was there once a chapel or church and can any evidence be found?' asked Mary Braithwaite, who lives on Luing and is a trained ar-

chaeologist, and part of Luing History Society.

What archaeologists already know about Torsa is it has a Medieval castle on one side of it and boat graffiti on the other, on a large outcrop above a natural anchorage between the island and Luing.

Caisteal nan Con, or Castle of the Dogs, may have been built by the Campbells who were given Torsa and large areas of the mainland by Robert the Bruce in 1313.

In the 16th century Torsa seems to have been held first by the MacDougalls and then by the Macleans of Duart. The castle name might originate from its use as a hunting-seat, though some have suggested it was rudely named by enemies of the powerful Macleans.

The boat graffiti carvings show several schooners in full sail and include the dates 1871 and 1929.



The annual 'lock-in' at Atlantis is always popular with S1 pupils from Oban High School.



Atlantis lock-in hailed a success

Last weekend saw another successful H20 Lock-In at Atlantis Leisure, writes David McPhee.

Almost 120 Oban High School S1 pupils made the leisure centre their home on Friday night to help raise money for the youth organisation.

The children swapped sleep for a night filled with activities, including Dungeons and Dragons and arts and crafts, which blended seamlessly with sports such as football, rugby and volleyball to create a fully inclusive programme.

A special Hallowe'en event also took place this year - staff turned part of the building into a haunted house, which children had to pass through

at the start of the night.

Kevin Keen, Atlantis Leisure's sports development and events manager, said: 'To have more than 100 pre-teenagers over a whole night without any major incidents or behavioural issues goes to show not only how successful an event the Lock-In was but is also an indication of the huge respect shown to the staff by the kids.'

Kevin thanked Oban Youth Café, Oban High School, Atlantis Leisure staff, as well as all the volunteers who gave up their spare time.

'Without all these people, this event wouldn't be anywhere near as much fun or as successful,' he added.

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OT

Behind the scenes at Atlantis Leisure

Just like that, we're being reminded by The Oban Times to put our clocks back. Where has this month gone? At Atlantis, it's gone into lots of little things. Read on to find out what we got up to in October.

Staff news – 'the team that doesn't stop moving':

It's amazing what the Atlantis team manages to fit into a few weeks and October has been no different. Marianne Gordon and Mandy Anfield both dived head-long into their aqua courses, qualifying together at the end of the month. It's brilliant to have them help swell numbers on the pool team. Dugald Munro followed suit with his own upskill training – qualifying as RPM instructor this month.

You might have seen on our social media that we've had to get a little creative with class cover due to instructor injury lately. We've been blown away by the support from former Atlantis team members. It's great to have Jemma, Kelly and Mark back in the programme, as well as Jack, who yet again crossed the country to help out. Aside from allowing classes to run, these guys bring mischief and

fun back into the centre and keep us all on our toes.

Centre life – the leaky roof and the squeaky pool:

After the excitement of our new sports hall curtains last month, we were brought back down to earth with the discovery of a leak in the roof above them. This is a tricky problem to fix as it's such an enormous roof. Finding the source and cause of the leak is a challenge.

However, with the help of our contractors and external specialists, we should have things back to normal soon. In the meantime, thank you for your tolerance of the odd bucket and mop as we keep Atlantis running at full tilt while we fix the leak.

We're always on the lookout for ways we can increase Atlantis' efficiency and reduce our environmental impact. One of the best ways we can do that is by keeping on top of our regular maintenance schedule. This month that meant completing the annual service of the swimming pool covers. These help to minimise overnight heat-loss which allows us to use less energy bringing the pools back to temperature in the morning.

This was the final service for these current covers, however, as they are due to be replaced next year.

Our biomass boiler was repaired this month. This allows a return to burning fewer fossil fuels and reducing our environmental impact.

Toilet twinning – 'loose change changes loos':

Atlantis is for the community, by the community, and we absolutely love when that freedom allows us to be flexible and creative in helping others. One of our younger community members has fully grasped what it means to make a difference and this month came to us with a proposal that we can only describe as a 'no-brainer'.

Nine-year-old Finlay Wilson, a student at Atlantis's Oban Swim School, saved up his pocket money so that he could twin toilets at Atlantis and Lochnell Primary School.

Toilet twinning connects a loo here in the UK with a toilet in an impoverished community. This can be in any one of the many places throughout the world where people don't have access to proper sanitary provision. Funds raised through toilet twinning help to

improve services.

Finlay realised how easy it was to make a big difference and asked if Atlantis might like to join him: 'no-brainer'. We're fundraising as a staff team to twin Atlantis's toilets, so look out for Finlay's posters around the centre.

PWTAG Award – 'the first Scottish PoolMark':

Last month we told you how Atlantis was in the running to be awarded Scotland's first Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group's PoolMark award. Well, we did it.

The PoolMark acts as an assurance that the pool meets essential healthy pool operational standards. It's a fantastic achievement and we're proud our commitment to your health and safety can be recognised in this way. Look out for the plaque going up on the wall in the coming weeks.

Atlantis in the community – making a difference beyond the centre:

At Atlantis we want to honour the community's long-standing support by backing projects outside the centre.

This month, that meant our an-

nual visit to Eader Glinn nursing home. A number of staff headed up to chat and spend time with residents. Together with physiotherapist Ruth Sunderland, they led residents in light exercises which can be repeated daily. We love our visits to Eader Glinn and really value this important, quality time with our seniors.

Our StayActive programme continues to develop as we grow the ways in which we support Lorn and Oban Healthy Options' clients who have come to the end of their three-month programmes.

Since introducing StayActive in May, we have welcomed more than 100 new customers and are enjoying getting to know this community within a community.

Donna's adventures to Easdale and Dalmally continue. She holds weekly classes for residents in these areas, drawing on the same content as StayActive classes run in the centre. It's great to get out and about and hold these classes in the community. If you would like to join any of these classes, or would like to speak to us about holding an additional class elsewhere, please get in touch.



SCOTTISH FIELD'S DECEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW

Christmas special

**Crofting life on Harris...
Christmas in a castle... Stirling & the
Trossachs... Tennis tiger mum Judy
Murray... SF's Christmas gift guide...
Tartan Noir extraordinaire Ian
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CalMac staff comm

A CalMac steward who helped a passenger whose husband jumped overboard, has been highly commended at a National Transport Awards ceremony in London.

Lynne Cornelius was on duty on the MV Isle Of Mull on May 3 this year when the drama unfolded.

'One of our crew, Lynne Cornelius, showed an overwhelming level of bravery and kindness during the incident, working to comfort and help the passenger who had just witnessed her husband jumping overboard. This is one of the most extreme cases of crisis management we can experience in the maritime industry. Lynne stayed with the casualty's wife while the vessel scrambled our fast rescue crafts and entered into a rescue operation with the MV Clansman.

'Within 21 minutes he had been rescued. Throughout this time, Lynne was a rock for this passenger in the most extreme of all stress. We are all extremely proud of her,' said a CalMac spokesperson.

Lynne's bosses were so impressed by her that they nominated her for the National Transport Award's Frontline Employee Award.

After the rescue, CalMac re-



Highly commended CalMac stewards Lynne Cornelius and Helen Mann at the National Transport Awards in London.

ceived this message of thanks: 'To the captain and crew of the MV Clansman, I would like to thank you very much for your swift response and professionalism last Thursday when you saved the life of my brother-in-law who jumped overboard. Without a doubt you saved his life.'

The casualty spent 18 minutes in the water, enough to make him hypothermic, but short enough to save his life, said the CalMac spokesperson, who added: 'This expe-

rience underlines the importance of kindness in the face of pain, and dialogue to make the unseen challenges many face day-to-day, more visible. We wish both passengers well as they continue their recovery from their experiences and we thank all the crew and services involved, particularly Lynne Cornelius for her kindness and bravery.'

CalMac employee Helen Mann was also commended for the Frontline Employee Award for her role in helping

Significant progress with sign language

Argyll and Bute Council has made significant progress supporting and promoting the use of British Sign Language (BSL) over the last 12 months.

At a recent meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, members heard how six of the seven measures identified in its Joint British Sign Language Plan have either been completed or put in to practise since the plan was approved in October 2018.

To date, early years staff have been provided with a pack containing resources and information about deaf culture for parents, nurseries and health visitors; BSL online resources have been made easily accessible through the Argyll and Bute Education blog and early years staff have been provided with training on basic BSL and fingerspelling.

The council made a commitment to carry out a survey in schools each year to collect information on the level of BSL held by teachers and support staff and this year's survey has been completed.

A pilot project to teach BSL 101 to primary four pupils at a school in Argyll and Bute has also been completed, with seven pupils having passed to date.

The council is also continuing to keep up-to-date records on where and how BSL is being offered in Argyll and Bute schools.

The council's policy lead for customer support services Councillor Rory Colville said: "The Joint British Sign Language Plan is shared by the council, Live Argyll and the Health and Social Care Partnership, with the aim of improving access for deaf and deaf-blind BSL users to information and public services, including healthcare and mental health support. Teaching and raising awareness of sign language is important in helping to break down barriers that deaf and deaf-blind people often encounter. It also helps to keep pupils engaged, encourages inclusion and is shown to help children develop literacy skills and grammatical understanding."

Children in Need sailing challenge

A Duror man is planning a sailing challenge this November to raise funds for Children In Need.

Joey Gough, aged 71, will skipper Oban yacht Tangle o' the Isles with a crew of four experienced sailors continuously round the island of Mull, starting tomorrow (Friday November 8) for a week, coinciding with the duration of the BBC's Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge.

Not only is this a huge challenge for the team, but a massive personal challenge for Joey, who is recovering from major surgery.

Since his 10-hour operation at the end of August, Joey has been working hard to regain fitness for skippering the yacht - a First 32s5. Joey had surgery and radiotherapy for cancer in 2010/11 but an unexpected level of damage from the radiotherapy led



Joey Gough from Duror is no stranger to a sailing challenge.

to this recent surgery. Joey, a past Commodore of Oban Sailing Club and Royal Highland Yacht Club, has raced all over the world.

Joining Joey to help boost Children in Need funds are Twig Olsen, Taynuilt;

Christine MacFarlane Slack, Ballachullish; Colin Campbell, Acharacle, and Robert Bradley, Melbourne.

In 2013, Joey and Robert won the 5,500-mile Melbourne to Osaka race, sailing in Robert's yacht. The team

aims to raise as much money as it can for the fund-raising spectacular BBC Children in Need appeal 2019.

Joey said: "No-one sails on the west of Scotland in November for fun and especially not at night. These are tricky waters to navigate and the weather will be extremely challenging, potentially cold, wet and uncomfortable. This is going to be a tough eight days and nights."

"Despite the experience of the crew, or perhaps because of the experience of the crew, we know this will be a real challenge. But we're doing it to earn your sponsorship. Every penny will go to Children in Need. Please give generously. We have a JustGiving site set up via our web page www.tangleotheisles.com."

A raft of commercial supporters have already given help in kind.

ended

get Colonsay re-connected during a 46-hour power cut.

On the day it happened, Helen was off-duty but helped to distribute hot food and drinks to fellow islanders at a cafe with a back-up generator. A team of power company employees had been airlifted onto the island to find the fault and during a conversation with Helen mentioned an emergency vessel was being sent to the island with a relief generator.

"She was concerned the ship wouldn't know the port team weren't able to pick up communications and wouldn't know they were coming. If it arrived at port unscheduled, there was a risk no-one would be there to tie it up. So she took it upon herself to take the short drive from her home to the port every half hour from 4am that morning to check whether or not a vessel was coming across to the island. She made this journey several times until she got access to a satellite phone via the local GP before finding out what time the boat was due and make all the normal arrangements to receive it," said a CalMac spokesperson.

Two hours after the ship docked, the power was back on.



RNLI fundraiser Alison Rennie and Oban coxswain Ally Cerexhe with this year's charity cards and calendars. 16_T45-RNLIcardsandpots02

Charity eyes festive fundraising

RNLI fundraisers in Oban hope the Christmas countdown will bring in more support to keep it saving lives at sea.

Festive cards and calendars are on sale now at McCaig's Warehouse and from

Saturday November 16 the charity will be having a pop-up shop every weekend until Christmas.

Oban's Mora Edith MacDonald lifeboat is on the front cover of the 2020 calendar.

Oban Sea Kayak Race makes donation to Oban lifeboat

Oban Sea Kayak Race organisers presented a £2,000 cheque to Oban lifeboat and its crew last week.

The money was raised at this year's event on August 24 and brings the total donated to Oban RNLI from the race since it started in 2010 to more than £20,500.

Oban Sea Kayak Race thanked the following safety boat crew, without whom the event could not

take place: Neil Matheson, Struan and Cameron Smith of Coastal Connections, Ben Sunderland and Roger Elliot and Drhue Forbes for the use of Kilbowie Outdoor Centre.

The organisers also thanked the businesses and individuals around Oban Bay who support and sponsor this great event every year.

Thanks also went to race photographer Stephen Lawson.

OFFERS & competitions

WIN

A BAXTERS HAMPER FILLED WITH DELICIOUS SCOTTISH PRODUCE



Baxters Highland Village is offering a Scottish Field reader the chance to win a fabulous Baxters Taste of Speyside hamper filled with delicious produce.

The Baxters Taste of Speyside hamper features wonderful food and drink, sourced from the beautiful Speyside region where Baxters has been producing fine foods for over 150 years.

Baxters Hampers are great gifts at any time of year, but particularly at Christmas. Packed with flavour, they can be bought in-store at Baxters Highland Village, Fochabers, or online at www.shop.baxters.com. Prices range from £11 to £99 and options also include the Baxters Scottish Pantry Hamper, a delicious assortment of hand-picked Scottish speciality food products, and the Audrey Baxter Taster Box filled with jams, curds, relishes and fudge from the Audrey Baxter speciality range. Delivery to any UK address. Personalised gift card included.

For your chance to win, simply answer the question below.
In which Scottish town is Baxters Highland Village located?

The prize is a Baxters Taste of Speyside Hamper. Over 18s only, no cash alternative. Closing date 10 December 2019.

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 10 December 2019. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words "OPT IN" on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Myx Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

OT

Hope in the face of service cuts

Cautious hope has been expressed that further Scottish Government funding may mean fewer service cuts at Argyll and Bute Council.

The authority's leader, Councillor Aileen Morton, is seeking information on what impact a push by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) for an increase in council grants by inflation plus three per cent would have.

Head of strategic finance Kirsty Flanagan said the council could be left in a surplus position if that was to happen. She said the authority could net an extra £9 million based on the mid-range forecast budget scenario, but was unsure of whether the extra funding would happen to the fullest extent.

COSLA said at its gathering in St Andrews on Friday October 11 that it would make a request to Holyrood to have a minimum uplift of inflation on budgets plus

three per cent. A minute from that meeting read: 'This will therefore be pursued vigorously in the negotiations with the Scottish Government.'

Councillor Morton asked the question at the meeting of the council's policy and resources committee six days later. She said: 'Leaders have unanimously agreed that they have a budget [request to] the Scottish Government that budgets have a minimum rate of inflation plus three per cent. It is a complicated question, but what kind of difference would that make to the gap we are facing in our budget?'

Ms Flanagan replied: 'Our funding from the Scottish Government amounts to £193million. On a crude basis, if there were no other calculations, and bearing in mind my mid-range scenario, there would be a swing of more than £9million. Based on the current budget outlook, it could put us in a surplus po-

sition. However, that is with a three per cent increase. There are a number of things we would need to consider as to whether that would actually happen here. There are a couple of elements which could negatively impact on us, although I am not sure of the value of them. If we did get additional funding, we need to be mindful that it may not all be direct funding. If there was an increase of three per cent, it may well come with conditions.'

Councillor Morton then said: 'There are a number of options which are unpalatable, and still a gap to be identified, but we have to lobby by the Scottish Government for funding to protect these services. But we must also agree a balanced budget in February.'

It was agreed to recommend to the full council later that day that the request by COSLA to the Scottish Government should be endorsed.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



A letter in last week's paper brought to mind a small poem my mother wrote many years ago and is published in her book, *Maraiche nan Cuantan*.

I expect Andrew Green's opinions on crofting to have attracted some response on the letters page this week and rather than delve into the subject myself, I will refer readers to the poem below.

Crofting has underpinned the existence of people in the Highlands and Islands since it first came into being in the late 1800s. If crofters in the 1880s kept '...their heads down and their mouths shut....' then the population of the Highlands and Islands would not exist today. Making such derogatory and sweeping comment about an industry that is so deeply ingrained in the identity and livelihood of a population is an example of the worst of human traits. Wherever we are in the world, we are all strangers, but respect for people and place should be shown.

An Coileach Coigreach -
Flòraidh NicPhàil
Ars' an coileach coigreach,
'Is e seo mo dhùnàn
Ged nach d' rinn mi ach tigh'nn thuige
Chionn began uine.
Chan eil ùidh agamsa nur

cleachdaidhean

Nur cànan no nur dualchas.
Deanaibh mar a fhreagras
ormsa's
Spaideil bhios mo ghiùlan!

Said the alien cockerel
'This is my dung heap
Although I have only arrived
A short while ago.

I have no interest in your
customs

Your language or your
traditions.

Do what suits me and
Smart indeed will be my
bearing!

'Nach b' e dà lath' e,' ars' an
t-seann chearc-ghuir

'S na h-itean aice molach,
dùbhrach.

'B' eòlach mis' air coilich
neartmhor -

Seòid nach leigeadh leas bhi
bùirich,

Bha modhail, sìobhalta,
neo-shanntach

'S a rinn beòshlaint shnasail,
thùrail

Ge be'n dùthaich anns an robh
'ad

Neadaich iad nar measg gu
sùrdail.

'Changing times,' said the old
clucking hen,

Feathers fluffed up and

threatening.

'I have known powerful
cockerels,

Fine fellows who had no need
to boast,

Who were polite, civil and not
greedy,

Who earned a good sensible
living.

No matter where they came
from -

They settled among us happily.

'S bochd an aire mar a thachras
Anns an leithid seo de dh' àite

Isean cuthaig anns an nead
Gun ghuth aig' ach a bhith

mi-chàileil.

Sgaoileadh mi-ghean is droch
amharas,

Aineòlas gabhail làmh an àirde

-

Dean do ghairm, a choilich
choigrich

'S tu tha airigh air mo thàir-sa!

It's a great pity what can happen
In places such as this:

A cuckoo's chick in the nest
Whose main intent is to be

unpleasant

Spreads unrest and suspicion
Based on its deep ignorance.

Crow, alien cockerel,
You are only worthy of my

contempt!

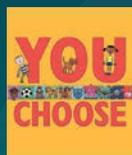
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Hallowe'en fun in focus



'Spooktacular' events at Oban primary schools

Primary schools in Oban were crawling with creepy creatures, petrifying princesses and a killer clown.

St Columba's, Rockfield, and Park primary schools held 'spooktacular' Hallowe'en events, which also featured skeletons, ghosts and ghouls.

Not so spooky costumes were also on display, such as superheroes, a cowboy and an inflatable horse, as well as an alien carrying a pupil.

Speaking about the school's Hallowe'en disco, a St Columba's school spokesperson said: 'We had some 'spooktacular' visitors to the school tonight.

'Let's hope they've gone by the morning. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the disco a fab night.'

A Rockfield Primary School spokesperson added: 'Spooky goes on at Rockfield. Many thanks to the Parent Teacher Association for organising the annual Hallowe'en discos and to parents/guardians for providing costumes and coming along on a cold, dark night.

'Thank you to the staff who came along to one or both discos and demonstrated fantastic dance moves. We all had really good fun and



the costumes and dancing were absolutely fabulous. Thanks also go to David McClure for providing the disco and to the janitors for helping us to clear up.'

More photographs on pages 14 and 15.



Rockfield Primary School pupils in their Hallowe'en costumes.



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Above and above right: Park Primary School pupils were all smiles as they celebrated Hallowe'en at their 'spooktacular' gathering.



Left and right: Rockfield Primary School Hallowe'en fun.



Hallowe'en fun in focus



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BUSINESS NEWS

New apprentices start at Glensanda

Aggregate Industries, which operates the quarry at Glensanda, has a new intake of apprentices.

Lauren Turner, Stewart Twort and Cameron Douglas were photographed with Paul Kersley, engineering manager – mechanical; Calum Carnie, quarry manager; James Scott, engineering team leader; and Alasdair Anderson, engineering manager – electrical.

Lauren, Stewart and Cameron recently started their careers at Glensanda. All three will complete a four-year apprenticeship, studying at City of Glasgow College on a block release basis along with working on site where they will all have their own mentor to guide them.

The quarry presently has three employees studying for their HNC, with a further two apprentices who are in the third year of their programme.



Argyll chef to serve up Highland larder

The Bridge of Orchy Hotel near Glen Coe has appointed chef David Hetherington to lead its mission to create a foodie haven in the Highlands.

Hetherington previously held the position of head chef at the Loch Lomond Arms Hotel in Luss, and last year was crowned Provenance Chef of the Year by the Scottish Food Awards and Academy.

As head chef at The Finnieston in 2017, he led the restaurant to win Glasgow Restaurant of the Year and in 2012 he took part in BBC's MasterChef, The Professionals.

David said: 'I'm delighted to join the team at the Bridge of Orchy Hotel.'



The Gigha camping and motorhome site will be very close to the ferry slip.

Gigha to raise bar on visitor facilities

Ambitious new plans to improve visitor facilities on the Isle of Gigha have secured a £135,000 investment from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Gigha Trading Limited (GTL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust (IGTH), is creating a motorhome and camping site over the next year.

This is in response to the increasing numbers of visitors to the island since the Scottish Government introduced the Road Equivalent Tariff scheme on ferries.

Gigha is just a 20-minute ferry trip off the west coast and boasts outstanding natural beauty, including white sandy beaches.

The new development will offer purpose-built camping and motorhome facilities close to the ferry pier and with access to the beach. It will include a new toilet, shower, laundry and kitchen building, 15 new camp-

ing pitches and 10 motorhome pitches, most of which will have hook-ups.

The total project will cost around £336,000. In addition to HIE's contribution will be an award of £171,000 from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF), with the balance from IGHT.

It is expected the modern site will strengthen the local economy by an additional £225,000 a year and that other businesses on Gigha will benefit from the increase in footfall and visitor spend.

The trust and Gigha company successfully secured investment from the RTIF but were unable to fund all of the remainder of the project. The HIE funding will enable them to develop the new camp and motorhome site within the planned timescale and standards.

Morag Goodfellow, HIE area manager for Argyll and the Islands, said: 'Tourism is one

of Scotland's key industries. It is also a growth industry and more and more businesses are gearing up to benefit from new opportunities linked to increasing demand.

'This is an excellent example of a tourism infrastructure project in a rural area that will boost the economy, support valuable jobs and strengthen community resilience.

'It will also enhance the wider tourism offering in Argyll.'

Jane Millar, business development manager with GTL, said: 'We are delighted to have secured funding from HIE and RTIF for the Gigha camp and motorhome project.

'Gigha currently has an accommodation shortage, which has a knock-on effect on the island's tourist season. The number of visitors to Gigha has steadily risen from 2015 onwards and, during peak times, we cannot accommodate all visitors.'

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West Coast winners highlight benefits of awards

Nominations for the Scottish Rural Awards, the prestigious awards that celebrate the best of rural Scotland, are due to close on Monday November 11.

The winners of the Scottish Rural Awards 2019 have revealed what winning the awards meant to them. From the isles to Argyll, the Scottish Rural Awards have had a positive impact on the morale and success of a variety of rural businesses on the West Coast.

Isle of Lewis business Heb Shuttle won the Business Start-Up Award in 2019 and has been nominated for the Best Rural Tourism Initiative Award for 2020.

Jan Schouten, founder of parent company Heb Holidays Ltd, said: 'We are absolutely delighted. We enjoyed it last year so much. We took so much inspiration away from it and the feeling that we are not alone in this. Working hard in a rural area is difficult but the Scottish Rural Awards gave us a really good feeling. It's



Winners of the 2019 awards. Photograph: Scottish Field / Angus Blackburn

not often you have all these rural people together in one place.'

Arisaig House was runner up in the Rural Hospitality category in 2019. Sarah Winnington-Ingram, owner of Arisaig House Hotel, said: 'It was a great boost for all of my staff. It was lovely to be recognised for what we work hard to achieve. The awards were fabulous too, we had a really good evening.'

Glencoe Activities was the runner up in the Diversification category last year and it is enter-

ing the Innovation category for the Scottish Rural Awards 2020.

Director Laurence Young said: 'Winning is always lovely and it's very helpful in our marketing activities and social media. The Scottish Rural Awards endorses the quality of the business and we've taken full advantage of these awards in our business. It was very valuable and we're applying again this year.'

Donald MacSween, who runs Air An Lot, a croft at Ness on the isle of Lewis, was runner up

in the Agriculture category. He uses methods used for hundreds of years and sells his products via the internet and social media.

'I was chuffed,' said Donald MacSween. 'A lot of people in agriculture, including me, work on their own quite a lot and it's difficult to gauge success sometimes. The Scottish Rural Awards made me think I must be doing something right! It's good to be part of the bigger picture and to have fresh eyes on your business.'

Donald said: 'My brother nominated me and then I filled in the form. The form only takes a few minutes if you already know how to sell your business.'

The Scottish Rural Awards 2020 will be held at the Glasgow Hilton on April 2. Rural businesses are encouraged to enter themselves, or people can nominate a friend or family member.

The final nominations deadline for the Scottish Rural Awards is November 11. To enter go to www.scottishruralawards.org

CalMac training scheme reaches new milestone

Ferry operator CalMac has now employed more than 100 modern apprentices.

The milestone was crossed as the 2019 class began training at City of Glasgow College's Riverside Campus.

The apprentices will also spend time at sea as the 12- to 18-month courses prepare them for work in the engine room, in retail or on deck.

An SQA qualification is granted upon completion, as the modern apprentices begin work on one of the CalMac vessels, servicing the communities which they are from.

Christine Roberts, CalMac director of human resources, said: 'We are very proud of the fact that we try to recruit our MAs from across our area of operations, creating well-paid professional employment to support our communities.'



The 21 newest CalMac MAs are welcomed to City of Glasgow College.



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How a Nessie lookalike saved Oban tourist trade

by Valerie Forsyth
editor@obantimes.co.uk

This month we look back at how a sea serpent saved the tourist trade in Oban.

Loch Ness has long been popular with tourists and visitors who hope to see its monster. During a slump in tourism in Oban, a plan was hatched for the town to claim its own.

A businessman arrived in late April 1877 and took up lodgings in one of the hotels for his long summer break. He noticed the landlord was depressed. He was not the only one.

The whole town was suffering from a lack of visitors. The man told the hotelier he had an idea that would bring tourists flocking back. He returned to his room and wrote a letter to a newspaper in the south of England.

He stated he had witnessed a wonderful sea serpent that had been landed on the shore in front of the Caledonian Hotel in George Street. It had been spotted earlier in the bay and a crowd had gathered on the pier, with some pointing their telescopes at it.

A few boats were launched under the direction of Mr Nicholson and, he claimed, as they approached, the creature suddenly sprang from the water and tried to head out to sea. However, the vessels forced it to change course.

A rope was secured to its neck and it took around 70 people to drag it above the high-tide mark. He went on to say it was 101 feet in length with its head 11 feet in circumference, with small eyes. It also had some strange markings that would be of interest to the scientific community.

The newspaper ran the story and, within weeks, papers across the country were publishing it. Visitors flocked to the town to see the creature and that season was one of Oban's most prosperous.

It was not until the end of that summer it was leaked that the story was fake.

Valerie Forsyth is an author and is passionate about the history of the Highlands and Islands.

Meanings of perso

Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

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What's in a name? Not much on occasions, though sometimes it fits oddly, as when Thin is stout and Short is long with Wright always in the wrong.

While we have Gaelic equivalents for most of our personal names, the number is not as large as some people may imagine.

Taking them in alphabetical order, the first is Allan, the Gaelic of which is Allean, possibly from al, a rock. But we have here to deal with an intruder, the Normandic Alan, popular in Scotland because of its having been so favoured in early times by the High Steward family, who gave us a long Scottish dynasty.

The next is Alpin, or Ailpein in the native language, which can probably claim a Pictish source of origin. Angus (Gaelic Aonghus) aon plus gus, meaning unique choice. Was someone trying to embody a Greek lineage when it became affiliated with Aeneas? A personal name seldom met with in the Highlands, is Arthur, of which the native form is Artair, yet strange to say, it can lay claim to belonging to the Celtic group and to be of Bretonic origin. Charles is from German Karl. Tearlach is from Toirrdhealbhadh. Coll, a name not infrequently met among the Clan Donald, and no doubt popularised through Coll Uais, an eighth century King of Ireland, contains the root col (thigh).

Dugald signifies the dark stranger or foreigner, and might have been originally applied to a Dane to distinguish him from the Scandinavians who were recognised as the Fionnghall, or fair strangers. Duncan forms a warrior name coming from donn (brown) and cath (battle). Farquhar and Fergus belong to the same class as Angus, the one being super-dear and the other super-choice. Finlay, like Duncan, belongs to the warrior band, and stands for fair hero, fionn being fair and laoch hero. Gregor has a fine Highland ring to it, but its nativity may be more Roman than Celtic, while a Greek origin can be ascribed to Hector, though its Gaelic form, Eachann, contains the root Each (a horse). Kenneth, signifying fair-one in its native form, the same root element as is found in canach (cotton grass).

Lachlan, which has practically the same pronunciation in both languages, native and



adopted, in the north is for Lochlann, which is Scandinavian. Possibly first bestowed on a native of that region, it just means Fjordland. Malcolm (Gaelic Calum) and earlier Maolcalum) is from caluman, a dove. In early Christian times maol formed a frequent prefix to Irish and Scots-Irish personal names till succeeded by Gille (servant). It is still preserved in Malise (Maol-Iosa), the servant of Jesus.

This is not to be confused with Myles (Maolmoire), the servant of Mary, as the English form is no doubt based on the Latin Milo. Murdoch is a maritime-name derived from early Irish Murchd, indicating sea-warri-

or, while Neil also belongs to the hero class. It was obviously borrowed into English as Nigel.

If the Highlands were not exceptionally rich in masculine personal names of Celtic origin, relatively we are much poorer in respect of feminine ones.

Betha, or Beathag, which has been for no apparent reason associated with Sophia, contains the root beatha (life). Bethoc was the name of King Duncan's mother. The well-known Irish name Bridget, or Bride, is an old Celtic goddess name associated with the Muses. Whether it has any affinity with the Brigantes, a Celtic tribe, is not known, but in virtue of the saintly St Bride it has a holy significance

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onal names



Shielbridge House, Acharacle, which was demolished in 1951. Photograph: Iain Thornber.

a kingdom covering most of the northern half of the island.

Some interesting and unusual surnames used to be found on the Island of Jura. Airidh Mhic Ille Mhoire fell out of use and became, in English, Gilmour. Buail' Ille' Anndreas became MacAndrews, although some historians make it the same as Ross. Gleann Airidh Mhic Ciurraidh produced the name MacCiurraidh (pronounced MacKewry) which does not appear anywhere else in the Highlands as far as I am aware and could be of Irish origin. There was a family of that name living in Arran at one time who called themselves Henderson in English.

There was a family called Whyte in Jura at one time, where they were known as Clann Illebhain. They lived at Glengarisdale at a place called Achadh-Braghad before leaving there and moving further down the glen to Dail-aeros, where they built their houses and byres under the shadow of Glengarisdale castle, the one-time stronghold of the Macleans in Jura.

Unfortunately the Clann Illebhain stripped the old castle of its stones which accounts for the almost complete disappearance of this once imposing structure. It is to be regretted that a single stone was ever removed, let alone that it was totally demolished.

The same being said of the 16th century Drimnin castle occupying the level-summit of a rocky outcrop over-looking the Sound of Mull. It was demolished in 1838 by Sir Charles Gordon of Drimnin, to make way for a private Roman Catholic chapel, angering John Macleod, the feisty local Church of Scotland minister, who wrote five years later in the New Statistical Account: 'It is pardonable to express regret that so very unnecessary a work of demolition should have taken place; but it is just to add, that, in this expression of regret, the enlightened proprietor of Drimnin now fully participates.'

Unfortunately, in 1849, old Drimnin House, which succeeded the castle as a place of residence, was accidentally burned down and any documentation surrounding the history of the castle was lost.

Sadly, many fine old buildings which I believe were worth preserving have been abandoned, demolished or altered in comparatively recent times.

in our lore. Devorgilla of our ancestors, and today's Dorothy were of old Dearbhforghaill, meaning true request.

Flora, of which Gaelic is Floraidh, represents Fynvola of the past and means fair-shouldered. Muriel is another sea name meaning sea-white, and is from muir (sea) and geal (white). Sorcha, anglicised as Clara, means bright. Una, the English form of which is Winifred, is a very old Irish name dating back earlier than the time of Conn of the Hundred Battles who flourished in the second century AD. According to Irish tradition, Conn was the first of a line of Irish kings who survived into the 11th century. He is said to have ruled

DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



Hallowe'en is just past so we thought we would go back to 1996 and this photograph of Dalavich school pupils and staff. Lauren Todd, P4, and Martin Copeland, P6, are with head teacher Mrs Offord and clerical assistant Mrs Twigg. And reader Lena Ferguson is in touch regarding our photo on October 24 to say: 'The young choir pictured in 2003 are Coisir Og Dhail Riata. They had a very successful Mòd in Oban in 2003, winning two out of their three competitions. Their conductor/Gaelic teacher at the time was Catriona Ross and their music teacher was Phyllis Crawford. Lena's daughter Christina, is second from the right.'



Photographed back in 1995 were staff from Lochaber Ltd and Welcome Host participants who had scaled Ben Nevis.

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LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

TV star Hugh helps Oban fundraiser

It's not every day a film and TV celebrity gets on board to support a fundraiser in Oban, but that is exactly what Downton Abbey star Hugh Bonneville has done.

Hugh was contacted by a friend of Alyson Bowman's mum and dad, Jean and John Bowman, who set up North Argyll Carers Centre's Cherish Fund in memory of their daughter, to raise money to fund a 'last resort' service that would transport patients to vital medical appointments when all other options have been exhausted.

To raise money for the centre, the couple had tried to auction a book, The Chronicles of Downton Abbey, which was given to them by a guest at the B&B they ran, who was involved with the making of the hit series. Unfortunately it didn't reach the reserve. So when the couple decided to raffle the prize through a Justgiving page, that is when Hugh got involved.

The Bowmans have raised so much money for the appeal over the years and it is such a worthy cause, that we hope many readers will support the Bowmans, and perhaps win the signed book!

Remembrance Day

This weekend will again see thousands of people across our region gather for Remembrance Day services, as we pay our respects to all those men and women who have given their lives in the service of their country.

In Oban, on Sunday, the parade will leave the Corran Halls at 10.30am and the service will begin at 10.50am at the Esplanade War Memorial.

At Tobermory's Ledaig Car Park on Mull, on Saturday at 7pm, there will be an evening of remembrance, while earlier in the day, Tobermory's Dad's Army will also be remembering fallen heroes out at sea.

We encourage everyone who is able to attend a service in their area.

Help required to trace family history

I am researching my mother's side of the family. She was a McNevin, formerly spelled MacNevin.

I think that my third great-grandfather was Hector McNevin, born June 23, 1799. He married Catherine McLean, born 1796, of Grimisary, Isle of Coll, on March 31, 1818. They emigrated to Prince Edward Island, Canada, in 1821.

I think Hector's father was Alexander McNevin, born circa 1770, on the Isle of Mull and married to Mary McDougal.

I am looking to connect the dots between the Canadian generations and the Scottish ancestors. I would appreciate any information that would help me in my quest.

Betty Tattersall,
Nova Scotia, Canada.
eatattersall@yahoo.com

Cyclists should make sure they are visible

We are now into gloomier conditions and on occasions a low sun casts long shadows on our roads.

I have advice for some cyclists. It is for those who venture on to the highways wearing black hats, black jackets, black trousers, black shoes, carrying black bags and riding their black bikes.

Wear clothes that enhance your visibility, please.

Earlier this year, in such conditions, I passed such a cyclist on my way into Oban. He was just starting on the incline out of Kilmore so the black tarmac was his background.

It was his moving right foot on the pedal I noticed. At first I thought it was a dog on the road until my headlights picked him up.

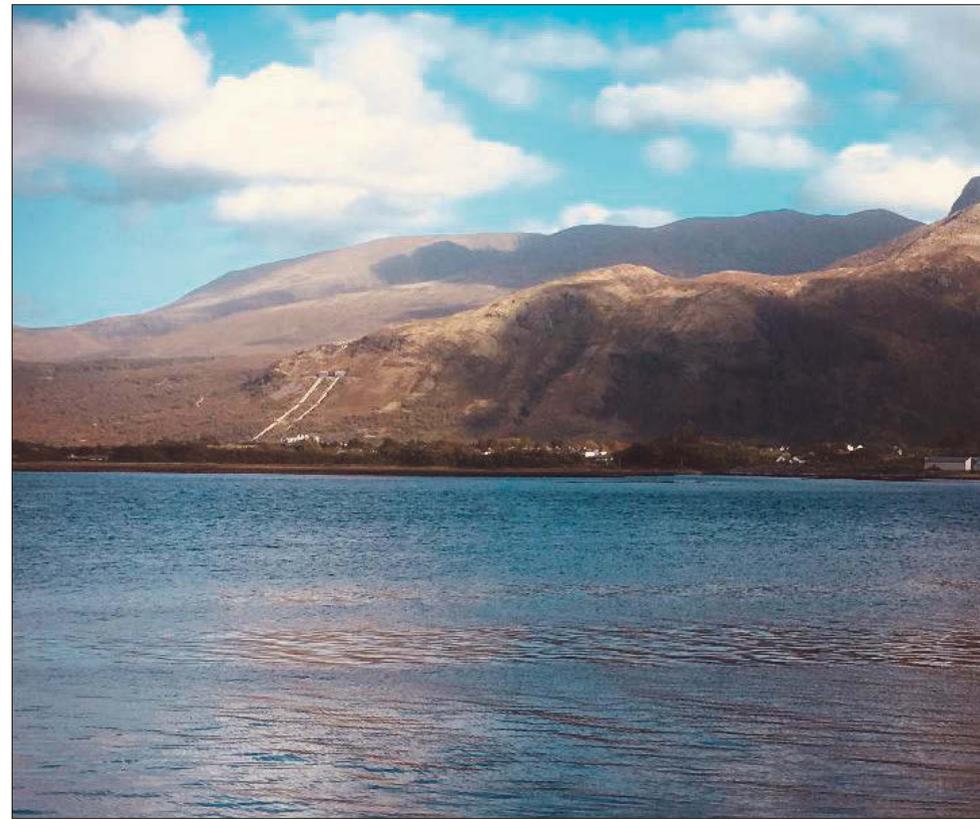
Tom Cullen, Dunskeig, Ardfern.

Recycle bins needed in Oban town centre

Some months ago I bought (breaded) fish'n'chips from a stall on the pier and very nice it was too. I did give the owner a bit of a hard time for serving it up to me on a polystyrene plate. He showed me the paper plates he had ready to start using.

He also told me that whilst he was preparing to do his bit, the Oban council would not

YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these each week.
If you have a photograph you would

like to see published here, send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial

provide bins to separate out recyclables from non - recyclables. You can argue that he could provide said bins but he pays his vendor taxes covering this.

I had hoped that, six months later, Oban council would have implemented recycling bins. Yet they haven't. I see people putting drink cans into the general rubbish bins (the only option). Embarrassing, isn't it that this country, supposed to be preparing to show the rest of the UK how forward thinking we are, can't even keep up.

Lieb Swan, Oban.

Advice on crofting

In response to Andrew Green's extraordinary letter in last week's issue criticising crofters and their way of life, it is obvious he must have some expertise in agricultural techniques.

Perhaps he could be encouraged to share and advise crofters as to which 'modern agricultural methods' he would recommend to improve land management on the average croft.

Andy Thornton
Ballachulish.



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Estate, Oban, or to our office in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph was sent by Catherine MacDonald and is of Ben Nevis from across Loch Linnhe.

Money can be found when governments want to

I am astounded to learn that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has found a magic money tree which will lend the present government oodles of cash with which to fund an amazing number of projects - £2 million here, £40 million there.

What message is this sending to the people who have faced the austerity cuts and been put on Universal Credit?

Our local foodbank has seen an increase in use by folk wanting to feed their families. Some have even had to borrow from payday lenders to pay for everyday needs. They do not get preferential low borrowing rates like the government does from big banks. The Labour manifesto also has enormous spending plans. I am afraid that the little people are being left behind by all those seeking to win our votes and promising pie in the sky.

The Scottish Government is no better, I refer to previous correspondence about the Scottish Government's cuts in grants to local councils. The figures are there for all to see on the Scottish Parliament website.

The Scottish Government's budget went up by 1.8 per cent this year after taking inflation into account. In contrast the Scottish Government cut the grant it gave to councils by 3.4 per cent after inflation. No wonder councils throughout Scotland are being forced to make people redundant and cut services.

I wish the Scottish Government would do a U-turn and give councils a fair deal.

Margaret Horrell,
Helensburgh.

Keep up the good work

As a weekly reader of the excellent Oban Times am sure I speak on behalf of many people when I say that I look forward every week to reading Ian Thornber's weekly article. It must take a lot of research and effort to produce such quality work, week on week.

The article in October 31 edition of The Oban Times was fascinating, as are so many other items written by Ian.

Keep up the good work.

Mike Scutt, Bury Port, West Wales.

Carers need a break too

We'd like to invite your readers to nominate a deserving carer who will be in with the chance of going on a free holiday, while the person they care for comes on a free break with us, Revitalise, through our brand new Grace Award for Caring.

Carers save the economy £132bn per year, which is more than the NHS budget. The Grace Award for Caring was named not only because it takes grace to care for someone, but because it takes grace to accept care from someone.

To nominate a carer please visit: www.revitalise.org.uk/graceawards or call: 0303 303 0145.

Abby Kessock-Philip, Revitalise.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Chaidh mi agus na bha cuide rium gu ruige taigh-seinnse! Abair annas arsa cuid! Ach bha àirde an fhuaim aig luchd-ciùil a'cluiche san taigh-sheinnse a bha a' toirt ionnsaigh chronail air cluasan na bha an làthair.

Ged a bha oidhirp ga dhèanamh air còmhraidh cha mhòr nach b' ann le bhith leughadh cumadh lipean a dh'amaiseadh tu air dad a 'chluinntinn' bho neach ri do thaobh! Gu h-iongantach cha robh coltas gun robh a' ghleadhraich a' cur dragh sam bith air càch ach 's e faochadh a bh' ann dhomh fhìn teicheadh an ceann ùine ghoirid.

Bha an fheadhainn òga a' fànaid ann an dòigh chàirdeil, 's iad ga mo mheas seann-fhasanta agus gearaineach 's cho beag tuigse agam air saoghal an latha 'n- diugh! Ma-thà ma thogair! Tha mi den bheachd gum bheil leithid siud de dh'fhuaim an lùib dibhearsain an t-sluaigh dol a dh'fhàgail tomhas mhòr aca bodhar mus ruig iad seann-aois, agus 's ann a bha mi a' beachdachadh air iomairt a thòiseachadh fon t-sluagh-ghairm 'coibhneas dhar cluasan! Feumaidh mi aideachadh

nach e cuspair ùr a tha an seo dhòmhsa idir, agus tha mi air a bhith mothachail thar nam bliadhnaichean air mar a tha riaghailtean a' cumail smachd air fuaim de gach seòrsa air a' bhàr-a-muigh ach nuair a thèid thu a-staigh gu ruige cuirm sam bheil ceòl bidh sin glè thric cho àrd is nach cluinn daoine a chèile a' còmhraidh. Càite bheil tlachd ann an leithid sin, agus carson a tha e a' tachairt?

Bidh cuimhn' aig mòran agaibh nuair a bha sibh òg a bhith a' frithealadh chèilidhean agus dhannsaichean ann an tallaichean-baile beaga far nach robh taic àrdachaidh fuaim sam bith aig luchd-ciùil, ach bha sinn uile gan cluinntinn soilleir gu leòr airson dannsa agus còmhraidh. Agus fad linntean bha an obair aig sgrìobhaichean-ciùil ainmeil feadh an t-saoghail ga èisteachd gun innleachdan fuadain sam bith ag àrdachadh an fhuaim.

Nach bu mhath tilleadh chun an t-saoghail rianail sin far am biodh taghadh agad air dè chluinneadh tu seach smachd an t-sàmhchair uile a bhith air a mùchadh le gleadhraich ciùil!

Tha cuimhn' agam air còmhraidh le fear-ciùil turas

agus mi a' faighneachd dheth carson a thòiseich cuid de chluicheadairean air puirt a chluiche cho luath 's nach gabhadh dannsa riutha aig amannan. Gabhadh mearachdan falach le astar thuirte e! Bhiodh e ladarna da-riubh gu ruige cuirm sam bheil leithid sin fìor far am bheil an ceòl cho àrd 's gum bheil thu air do bhòdhradh, ach mura gabh èisteachd ris cò aige tha fios!

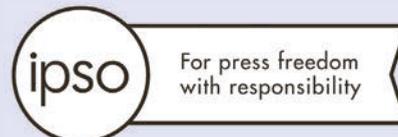
During a recent visit to a pub I once again found the volume of the live music an auditory assault that made conversation impossible, and it was a relief to escape to the 'quiet' of a city street.

Excessively loud music is a long-running hobby-horse of mine, but I do believe it to be damaging to people's hearing, and I nostalgically recall the music and chat at gigs when amplification was not available.

Ailean Caimbeul
(Allan Campbell)

ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Allan Campbell is president of An Comunn Gaidhealach and a member of Bòrd na Gàidhlig.



The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Funding has welcomed to tag bluefin tuna in the Hebrides.

Bluefin tuna have been seen in increasing numbers around the Hebrides, but Scotland was not included in the previous tagging scheme.

The government has been working with fishermen in Harris to have a catch and release scheme similar to that in operation in Donegal, Ireland, which would allow development of this type of angling.

The European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) has approved money for bluefin tuna tagging.

KILCHRENAN

The Kilchrenan Does Christmas event will be taking place again this year.

The festive fair will be held on Saturday November 30 from 2pm until 5pm.

It will take place in Kilchrenan Village Hall and feature stalls with crafts, antiques, food, massages, baby goods and more.

Refreshments such as mulled wine, sausage rolls, mince pies, tea and coffee will also be on offer, as will a raffle and children's lucky dip.

For more information, contact Issy Grant on 07799 646263 or email isobelgrant86@gmail.com.

GLENORCHY & INNISHAIL

The next Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council meeting will take place on Wednesday November 13.

It will be held in the Dalmally Community Centre and begin at 7.30pm.

There will be updates on issues such as road closures, defibrillator provision, medical services and more.

Members of the public, representatives of other community groups and schools are very welcome.

APPIN

The Appin SWI annual whist drive will take place in the Appin Village

Banner celebrates island women



Mull and Iona women raise their banner.

A Mull and Iona banner commemorating 100 years of women getting the vote has been moving hearts and minds as part of a textile celebration.

The We Know Where We Are Going banner, made as part of a Processions project, was chosen to be exhibited as part of the British Textile Biennial 2019.

It was made by women and girls aged eight to 80 living on the

islands and working with artist Alicia Hendrick.

'Our banner is a celebration of the inspirational women of our islands. The map of Mull is filled with images of island women, the sea surrounding our islands are inscribed with the names of women past and present we admire,' said Ms Hendrick.

Inspired by suffragette banner-maker Mary Lowndes, the women

and girls used tweed, tartan and beeswax to make their banner, embroidering it with the words and poetry of island female writers.

Arts organisation Comar nominated artist Alicia, who was selected as one of 100 artists working with communities across Britain.

The banner, along with others from the Processions project, was exhibited for 10 days in an old mill space in Lancashire.

Hall on Friday November 8. The event will begin at 7.30pm and will feature a raffle, as well as a light supper.

TOBERMORY

The dates have been set for this year's Tobermory Christmas Producers' Markets.

The first of the two events will be

held on Saturday November 23 from noon until 3pm in Aros Hall on Main Street, Tobermory.

The second market will be held on Saturday December 21 and will also run from noon until 3pm in the Aros Hall.

The markets promise to provide: 'The very best seasonal food, gifts, arts and crafts from local farmers, artists and makers.'

There will be more than 30 stalls to help people fill their Christmas stockings and larders.

OBAN

The Oban branch of Cancer Research is hosting a quiz night in the Masonic Hall, Oban, on Friday November 8.

The event will begin at 7.30pm, but

quizzers are being advised to arrive at 7pm to get set up.

There will be a £3 admission fee and there will be prizes for first, second and third placed teams. There is a maximum of six people allowed per team. Refreshments and a raffle will also be on offer, with all proceeds going to Cancer Research.

ARDCHATTAN

There will be a Christmas craft fair in the Archattan Centre on Saturday November 23. The event will feature mulled wine and live music and will run from noon until 3pm.

Last year's fair was hailed as a great success by the organisers, with something for everyone, and this year's promises to be no different.

There will be 'lots of great gift ideas' that have been crafted within the local area.

Tables are free, but a donation will be welcome. To book, email Breege@journalist.com.

ISLANDS

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has welcomed an announcement from Ofgem last month encouraging revised proposals for transmission links to Scottish islands.

Mr Cameron, who wrote to the energy regulator earlier in the year about the interconnector for the Western Isles, said: 'This clearly shows that, as I argued in August, a 600MW interconnector for the Western Isles is still to play for.'

'I look forward to continuing my work with local groups to ensure Ofgem fully understands how important this is for the future of our communities.'

'The door is open and it is imperative that we get behind a renewed proposal that secures approval for a 600MW transmission link.'

GETINTOUCH

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At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



TREE



Finlay Johnston, 33, of Tiree.

The 46th Glenfiddich Piping Championship has been won by Finlay Johnston, 33, from Tiree.

It is the second successive year that Finlay Johnston has won the overall title at the world's most prestigious solo piping competition.

The event took place at Blair Castle, Blair Atholl, Perthshire on Saturday October 26.

Finlay said: 'I'm overwhelmed. I thought it might never happen again. To win for a second time is unbelievable.'

'I have to pay special thanks to my tutor Ronnie McShannon, who has been behind me for 25 years.'

Prizes were also awarded to Connor Sinclair of Crieff, Scotland, who took first place in the MSR event, and Glenn Brown of Milton, Ontario, Canada, who was first in the Piobaireachd event.

Bookends wrap-up gets cosy



Trustees and friends wrap up this year's Bookends Festival with plans already started for 2020.

Authors are already queuing up to be a part of next year's Bookends Festival in Benderloch.

Trustees and friends of the festival gathered at the Victory Hall's Reading Room to wrap up this year's successful event and hear plans for 2020's Bookends.

Festival founder Joy Cameron

was presented with a bouquet, cards and a copy of Billy Connolly's latest book for her efforts in leading the community event over the first four years.

Next year will see the popular festival mark its fifth birthday.

'Next year we will be five, so it's a chance to do something special,' said Mrs Cameron.

Dates for the festival are

Saturday September 26 to Saturday October 3.

'Authors are already queuing up and the trustees are off to review some of the submitted works,' added Mrs Cameron.

The next Bookends pop-up day, supported by Argyll and Bute Council, is on Thursday November 21 from 11am until 6.30pm in the Reading Room.

Testing time

People who know me will be familiar with my penchant for a beer or two after a long shift in the OT offices.

So it should come as little surprise that well-known Oban businessman Graeme Bass engages me in conversation in the Lorne bar.

The ever-genial Graeme is keen to promote the weekly pub quiz he hosts in the Lorne and which is proving extremely popular.

During the tourist season, the bar is usually packed, with many visitors enjoying Graeme's idiosyncratic sense of humour as he pitches his questions.

However, unsurprisingly, the numbers drop off a little at this time of year and Graeme is keen for as many local people as possible to take part.

Fancy it? It happens each Wednesday from about 8.45pm.



Read on!

I am sitting at work the other day when the telephone rings and I find myself chatting with Neil Matheson, of Mathesons Furnishings in Soroba Road.

'Are you still interested in photos of people reading The Oban Times in unusual places?' he inquires.

'Yes, why though?' I respond.

'Because I've got a photo of myself reading the paper while sitting on a reef in Oban Bay that is usually under water and is only accessible at low tide,' he explains.

Neil went on to say he was particularly taken with our Mòd coverage and enjoyed perusing the results while perched on his reef.

Good man!

What do you think?

Write to me at mlaing@obantimes.co.uk or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban,



Aberdeen Gaelic Choir, which has members from Oban and the Highlands and the islands, had a successful Royal National Mod 2019.

The choir won Friday's puirt-a-beul, lifting The Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup and the John Macleod Carloway and Edinburgh Memorial Trophy for receiving the highest Gaelic marks. Aberdeen are the first recipients of the bowl, named after the former president of An Comunn Gàidhealach John MacLeod.

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OUTDOORS

Funding boost for Argyll's Scapa Fest

A unique outdoor yoga and adventure programme is one of five events in Scotland benefiting from a share of more than £72,000 from EventScotland's National Events Programme Fund.

Scapa Fest, held at Ardinglas Estate at the head of Loch Fyne, has received £4,000 from EventScotland to enhance its digital and social media activities. It is the first time the event has applied for and received funding from EventScotland.

The event, which will run for three days from May 1 next year, will bring together global experts in mind-body health, outdoor education and environmental action to deliver immersive sessions to families and individuals. It prides itself in being a zero waste and 'leave no trace' festival.

Scapa Fest was named as one of the three health and well-being events 'not to be missed' in 2019 and its community is growing worldwide with attendees from the US, Scandinavia and Europe.



David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director, said: 'With research showing that many visitors across the UK see Scotland as an ideal wellness destination, I'm thrilled we can support an event like Scapa Fest which focuses on the health of the mind and body.'

Clemence Cocquet, pictured, founder and chief executive officer of Scapa Fest, said: 'I am extremely grateful to EventScotland for their support. Through support from EventScotland, we can expand our promotional activity to continue to attract new audiences from further afield to experience the delights of Argyll and look ahead to establishing Scapa Fest as one of Scotland's premier and pioneering sustainable living experiences.'

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Living a dog's life down on the farm

Notes from a wild island

STEPHANIE COPE

stephaniecope.glengorm@gmail.com



'This,' said Alex, striding into the hay loft and brandishing the wriggling puppy, 'is your replacement.'

Four bottoms squirmed delightedly. Four tails slapped the straw. Four toothy grins beamed from within their kennels.

The farm collies are an odd bunch. All are practised attention seekers: no opportunity for fuss escapes their probing black-and-white noses. Consequently, on the quadbike, Alex doesn't so much sit with his colleagues as wear them.

Working dog names need to be clear, short and shoutable. In a break with tradition, the chance misspelling of 'Flee' as 'Flea' catapulted Alex into the fertile, monosyllabic furrow of invertebrates.

As he tries manfully to prise his pestering dogs away from tourists, his exasperated screams of Flea, Fly, Midge, Tick or Bug often fall victim to selective hearing.

Flea is the oldest, and deaf as a doornail. She's given Alex 16 years of devoted service – between sneaking off to chase rabbits, sneaking off to be petted, sneaking off to dumpster-dive the castle bins and sneaking into the castle's guest rooms (any initial delight on the part of the occupants is quickly swapped for wrinkled noses and hand soap).

Nine-year old Tess MKII has multiple quirks, one of which is a hatred for walks. As the other dogs play, sniff and enjoy their free time, Tess MKII sinks into gloomy martyrdom inches from your calf muscles. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy – since any chance step backward occasions a mournful yelp.

Like Tess MKII, six-year-old Breagha was inherited from the farm manager. As a frequent dispenser of disapproving glances, Breagha is the Hermione Granger of border collies: all rules, 'doing things properly' and tutting.



Stephanie Cope says Bug, left, and Tess MKII are the ultimate safety hazards when out walking.

Breagha's chief hobby is gazing adoringly into your eyes, and she will climb all over your personal space to do it.

Tick is two and a half years old. Being part bearded collie, she is largely invisible beneath a shock of straggling grey hair. Tick is always grubby, so it's hard to discern markings apart from on her face – where careful inspection reveals a white flash.

At such proximity, the casual observer will be startled by two blazing orange eyes, boasting the manic predatory energy of an owl.

Alex has that innate quiet kindness that animals love. He is glacially patient. Clearly, an interest in livestock is a CV booster for any farm dog – but, for Tick, sheep and cattle are an obsession. It's amusing to watch her slim

blue-black form flit between the sphagnum cushions and dripping basalt; while Alex, apoplectic with rage and bulging profoundly at the eyeballs, tries to steady her.

Just as his blood pressure soars to the cusp of hospitalisation, Tick scampers back – all laughing mouth, fidgeting and ill-feigned remorse.

Twelve-week-old Bug is running a charm offensive. Each morning she shuffles on her bottom, tail wagging furiously, to visit the other kennels. Despite this bizarre and recurrent friendship commute, Bug is studiously ignored by her elders.

Bug also loves people and wants nothing more than to walk sweetly at your heel: praiseworthy, were it not for her habit of dashing between your legs, in an apparent desire to make both heels feel equally appreciated.

While many working dogs live a full and dynamic life, others are less fortunate. Alex lost Midge at 18 months when she fell awkwardly from a rock outcrop. Rendered unable to move or breathe, he comforted his friend until it was time to carry her home.

Sadly, others have been gored by cattle or caught under quadbikes. Indeed, at times, the fleet has sustained only the most tenuous grip on functionality. Peering over her clipboard as three-legged Lynn and bandy-legged Tess MKI shambled out, one vet famously inquired: 'Well, where's the A-Team?'

Our girls work a hill farm of 2,325ha. They are integral to the management of some 800 ewes and 200 cattle (largely pedigree Blackface and Highland). The collies are also cherished company in what can be a lonely and back-breaking way to make a living.

Nevertheless, watching Alex roaring at Tick because she won't listen; bawling at Flea because she can't hear; swatting at Breagha as she tries to scramble into his arms; tripping over Bug as she runs between his legs; and treading on Tess when he loses his balance ... one does wonder how they get anything done.

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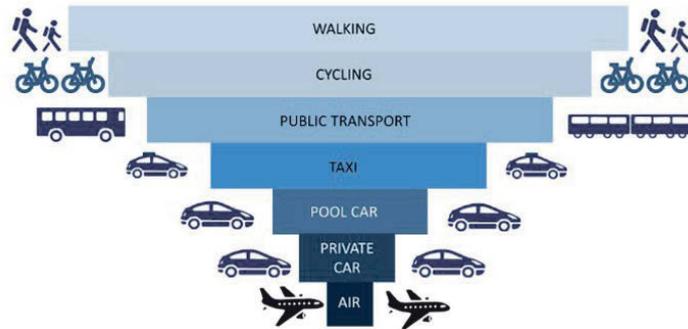
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This week's walks

Lochaber Environmental Group urges sustainable transport use



This inverted pyramid shows transport priorities.

Scotland's draft National Transport Strategy advocates the vision of a transport system that is sustainable, inclusive and accessible, and which promotes prosperity, health and fairness for all citizens.

The strategy signals the future direction for transport and provides the context within which any future decisions should be made, with the key priorities focusing on promoting equality, taking climate action, helping the economy prosper, and improving everyone's health and wellbeing.

Detailed in the strategy, the Sustainable Travel Hierarchy promotes active travel and public transport options in preference to single-occupancy car use in the decision-making process.

To build a transport system based on this hierarchy, transformational change is needed in daily travel behaviour.

This is the vision that Fort William should aspire to when planning its transport system for the future. There is the opportunity to begin this process with the new developments being planned for the town at Blar Mhor and Upper Achintore.

The transport system and consideration of the current and future transport needs of these developments should be at the heart of planning decisions to ensure these communities are

sustainable. The transport system should put in place travel options to discourage people from owning or using cars. It should be designed so residents and visitors to the area are attracted to public transport and active travel options ahead of private cars.

The transport system should be designed to ensure places are convenient to get to without having to use a car.

Planning decisions and where houses, schools, shops and other services are located impact choices about the types of journeys made, and how and when they are made.

Cycle paths should take priority over roads, and cycle infrastructure, such as well-placed bike racks and shelters, should be located throughout new developments to ensure easy access and encourage bike use.

Rather than pouring ever more money into road infrastructure, there should be plans for the move to sustainable and healthy travel options, with cycle path networks linking residential suburbs with services and places of employment.

The development of bike share

schemes should be encouraged and supported by national and local government to ensure active travel options are accessible to all, not just those living in cities.

In the Highlands, there has been a move towards sustainable travel with 11.7 per cent of people regularly cycling to work in 2017, according to the Annual Cycling Monitoring Report by Cycling Scotland. This is the second highest in Scotland, slightly behind Edinburgh, and considerably higher than the national average of 4.9 per cent.

However, there is still much work to be done. In 2017, only 2.9 per cent of primary pupils cycled to school in the Highlands, and this drops to 0.1 per cent for secondary school pupils.

The Scottish Government's objective of 10 per cent of everyday journeys taken by bike will not be achieved by 2020, but this does not mean giving up, and the aim should go beyond 10 per cent.

Reducing transport emissions is essential if a future is to be secured without catastrophic climate and ecological breakdown.

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at www.lochaberand-lorn-ramblers.org.uk

Saturday November 9, Beinn an Dòthaidh and Beinn Dòrain, Bridge of Orchy.

These two well-known Munros are the centre-piece of the view from the A82 north of Tyndrum. This route traverses both of them before descending into an impressive coire.

Park near the start of the estate road opposite the head of Loch Tulla, at NN313438. Follow the track E to Achalader farm, turn S and cross the railway. Continue S up the grassy slopes on the W side of the burn to reach the foot of the ridge enclosing Coire Achaladair on its W side. Climb the ridge to reach a summit of Beinn an Dòthaidh, 1,000m. The main summit is 500m further E, altitude 1,004m. Return to the first summit and descend S to the col at the head of Coire an Dòthaidh, 744m, and continue S up the long ridge to the summit of Beinn Dòrain, 1,076m. Return to the col and descend on a path in Coire an Dòthaidh to the Bridge of Orchy Hotel. Transport required at the CP S of the hotel at NN296395.

Grade: S. Distance: 15km. Height to climb: 1,200m. LR50 EX377. Meet at: Glencoe Village CP NN098587 at 9.30am. Start of walk at 10am. Leader: Ann Jones 07770 434114.

Thursday November 14, Corrou to Kinlochleven via Meanannach, Rannoch Moor.

A journey in wild country amongst the more remote peaks and glens of Lochaber. Come prepared to ford a river. Bring concessionary passes or money for travel by train and bus.

Start from Corrou Stn, NN355664. Cross to the W side of the railway and follow the path NW to join a track after about 2km. Continue downhill on the track to the head of Loch Treig. Turn W along its shore to the bridge across the mouth of the Abhainn Rath at Creaguimeach Lodge LR. *Cross the bridge and turn SW to follow the river on a path. Follow it W upstream for about 5km to Meannach Bothy. Ford the Abhainn Rath to reach the ruins at Luibeilt and pick up the track leading S to Loch Eilde Beag. Continue on past

Loch Eilde Mor. Beyond the foot of the loch, the track rises to a low col. At NN208634, turn SW on to a footpath and follow it down to Kinlochleven. Transport required, buses from Kinlochleven dep: 1710, 1810, 1855, 2128, 2328.

*During recent prolonged or heavy rain or if rivers are high, consider travelling via footpath on S side of Abhainn Rath to Staoineag Bothy and continuing direct to Luibeilt on pathless terrain.

Grade: M. Distance: 23km. Height to climb: 400m. Map(s): LR41, EX385/392. Meet at: Fort William Stn NN105741 for 0744 dep. Leader: TBC.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at www.nevis-hillwalking.club. If anyone would like to go on a walk, contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevis-hillwalking.club

Sunday November 10, Carn a' Chuilinn, Fort Augustus.

An isolated Corbett situated 3.5km W of the new Glendoe Dam.

Start from the B862 3km E of Fort Augustus, where the road bridge crosses the Allt Doe, NH408087.

Limited off-road parking is available. Head back to the CG and turn SW up a grassy field to join the hydro-track. Follow the track into Glen Doe for 3km to the bridge over the Allt Doe, then continue S on a stalkers' path to about NH414053. Head SE up steep rocky slopes to reach the N spur of Carn a' Chuilinn and follow its crest up to the summit, 816m.

*For a closer look at the dam, descend S, and pass around the foot of Lochan Dearg Uilt. Continue E along the high ground above Glen Tarff, curving NE along the rim of the escarpment of Creag an Fhir-eoinn then cross the Allt Carn a' Chuilinn near its issue from the loch. Head for the statue and continue NE for 280m to regain the hydro track. Follow this N back to the B862.

*A shorter return from the summit of Carn a' Chuilin descends NW on steep rocky ground to reach a track at about NH407043. Follow it NW then NE around a fenced plantation to rejoin the hydro track in Glen Doe. Follow this back to the B862, about 2.5km.

21km, 815m ascent
*15km, 721m ascent

Suggested by Gavin Theobald
Coordinated by Craig Beckett

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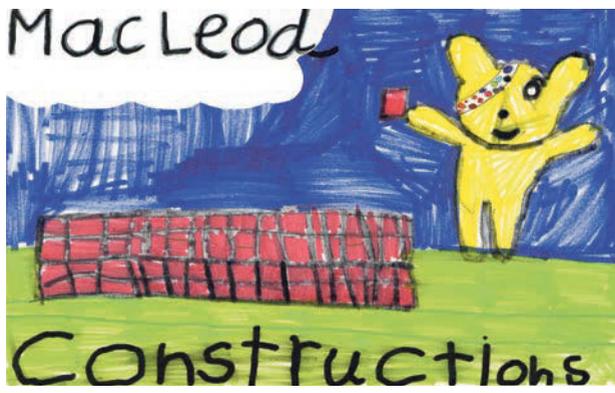
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Hurrah! it's time for Children in Need!

The annual BBC Children in Need event has worked so hard since 1980 to raise money to help disadvantaged youngsters in the UK.

This year the big TV night is Friday November 15 where all sorts of stars take to the screen to join in, getting everyone to have fun and raise cash.

But we have our own stars of Children in Need and they are the youngsters who live here and do so much to help children who they know have not been fortunate as themselves.

What a big-hearted and tal-

ented bunch they are.

The children from the classes Primary 3 and 4 at Dunbeg designed these advertisements as part of the Wyvex Media event.

BBC Children In Need relies on the generosity and creativity of the thousands of supporters and fundraisers who raise millions of pounds for the charity every year. To date, the UK public has raised over £1 billion for children and young people facing disadvantage across the UK.

Next Friday a fantastic line-up will present the annual BBC

Children In Need Appeal show on BBC One, as they help raise money.

Broadcast live from the BBC's Elstree studios we can expect a special night full of fun for all ages hosted by Tess Daly, Ade Adepitan, Graham Norton, Mel Giedroyc and Marvin and Rochelle Humes. It will be an unmissable night of entertainment and fundraising for the whole family. Plus, comedian Tom Allen will also be taking on hosting duties this year as he joins the BBC Children In Need presenting line-up for the first time.

'Every year I'm continuously amazed by the remarkable efforts of supporters across the UK who go above and beyond for the charity and the generosity of BBC viewers. We are hugely grateful.' -

Kate Phillips, controller, entertainment commissioning at the BBC.

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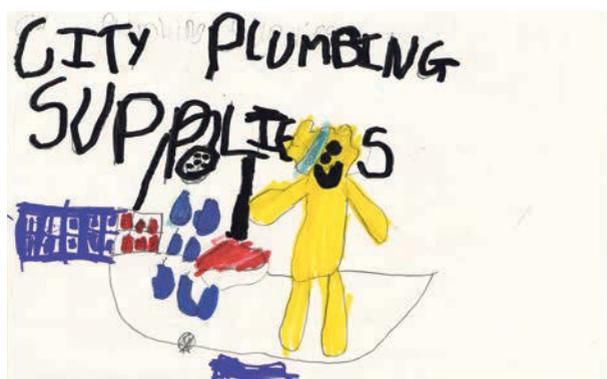
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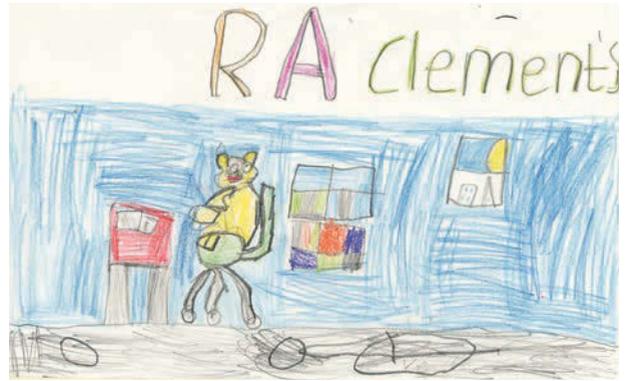
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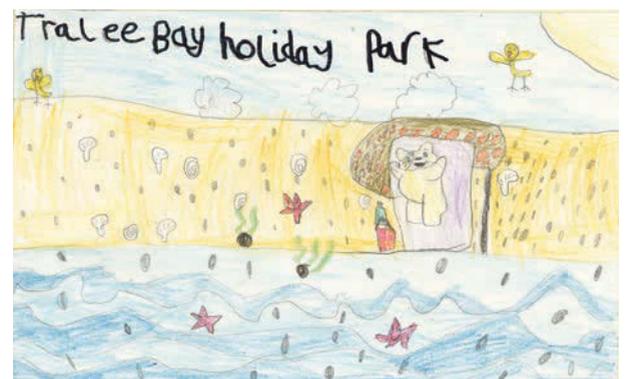
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Honestly! What has this year been like? We all need a good Christmas: with good company, good friends and a good family get-together. Add a good Christmas dinner, some good nights out and some good, old-fashioned, cosy nights in.

Treat yourself to some good food, drinks and thoughtful presents to give.

Do some good too, by helping out a charity or people who might need a little extra help.

Hopefully you have just read the word 'good' enough times to get you thinking about and planning for your festivities.

And remember that the key to Christmas is to have a good, stress-free time preparing for it.

That is where we are so lucky here in the West Highlands. Our shops, produce, venues and services are so unique and special. Why give yourself a bad time and hassle by shopping elsewhere.

So let's all have a good Christmas,

With good wishes from everyone at The Oban Times.



EATING OUT

If your idea of Christmas dinner is staying around your own family table do not miss out on the great benefits of eating out.

Think of at least one meal out during the festive period as a thank-you to the family's main cook. It could be a family bar meal, or a book-the-babysitter or spend-the-night-with-grandparents while you go out as a couple.

The latter is highly recommended for people with young children who have been at 100mph excitement levels throughout Christmas.

Whatever you plan, a break from cooking is always welcome.

Your Christmas eating out could be strategic: 'You take the kids for a burger while I go and finish the shopping/wrapping.'

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And never ever forget the benefits of a well-timed take-away, especially from someone who delivers. For a family running late, when school concert rehearsals suddenly appear in the schedule, and then the concert itself, a take-away can be a life-saver.

Eating out is not just for town centres. Your family entertaining strategy this Christmas can also use some strategically-placed venues.

If you have family and friends who are spread over a wide area – and who doesn't in the West Highlands – pick a destination which is mid-way between you all to keep everyone's travel times to a minimum. Choose a lunch-time, or even brunch or afternoon tea and people can all complete the journey in daylight.



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*add £3 supplement for steak

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Served on a timbale of Mediterranean vegetable cous-cous with a lemon and thyme drizzle

Roast Turkey with a Homemade Gravy
Served with sage & onion stuffing, roast potatoes, honey roasted root vegetables and cranberry jam

Homemade Wild Mushroom Risotto (v)
Served with fresh parmesan

Homemade Freshly Baked Apple & Cinnamon Crumble (v)
Sprinkled with demerara sugar and served hot with custard or double cream

Homemade Chocolate Brownie (v)
Served with ice cream

Homemade Sticky Toffee Pudding (v)
Served with ice cream





MAKE IT AN OCC

Mention eating out at Christmas and everyone thinks of getting dressed up and going out to a restaurant or hotel for dinner.

For many people that is the high spot of their Christmas – someone else does all the cooking and the cleaning up afterwards; getting all ‘glammed-up’ to go out is part of the fun and so is the taxi ride home so that everyone who wants to can enjoy a drink.

For every dressed up, formal Christmas dinner there is also a relaxed country hotel or bar serving Christmas dinner with rooms that have log burners or an open fire to relax in front of before, or after, the meal.

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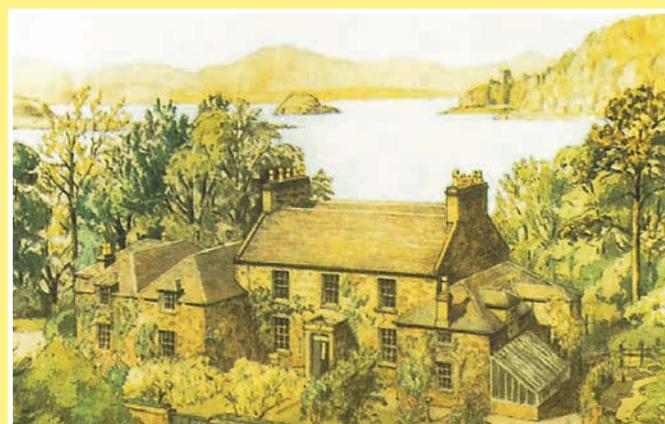
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ASION

A meal, as an extra special event, is a great way to introduce children to the idea of being smartly dressed and going out formally.

Perhaps best of all, your Christmas dinner doesn't have to be a Christmas dinner. Many folk have been out beforehand to events serving festive fare for work, socially or with other branches of the family, so by the time the big day comes it is a relief to sit down to a curry, seafood or fish.

And even better, when you have a large gathering there can be any number of dietary needs, veggie, vegan, gluten-free, lactose-intolerant – a commercial kitchen is already geared up to cope, so you don't have to!

REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR TABLE

The West Highlands and islands should be proud of the incredible range of places to eat that are on offer and the quality of the local produce served. Every Christmas should have some eating out – be it Christmas dinner, catching up with friends or a takeaway to save time.

All tastes, styles and prices are catered for; that is one of the best things about living in a world-class tourist destination. There are cafés with home baking, pubs serving bar food, hotels and stand alone restaurants across the range and our famous fish and chips and takeaways. The depth and breadth of catering and the skilled professionals who work here in the region have to be congratulated – and the entrepreneurs who open new ventures or re-launch old favourites. Make sure you book a table; it's going to be busy!



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YOU BETTER WATCH OUT

Is the tradition of gifts linked to the three wise men or kings, who presented gifts to the infant Jesus, or does the tradition go further back to pre-Christian traditions? No one is sure.

In different countries gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and in some cases Twelfth Night, January 6.

Depending on where you are in the world the gifts can come from Father Christmas, St Nicolas and the baby Jesus or in some places a witch, like the friendly La Befana, in Italy.

Hanging up stockings is said to come from the story of St Nicholas giving out gifts secretly to those in need, throwing them through an open window where they landed in stockings hung up to dry.

In Austria Saint Nicolas has an evil accomplice, Krampus. The saint rewards nice little boys and girls, while bogey-man Krampus carries them off in a sack. He also appears in other central European Christmas folklore.

The naughty or nice idea also sees lumps of coal in the stockings of the less well-behaved.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Someone special deserves something special – that is a universally accepted fact at Christmas time.

So where is all this ‘special’ going to come from? It can be a headache finding the perfect gift, even more so if you are fighting your way around a big city’s shops.

Look around you – we have some wonderful ideas here on our doorsteps, or just down the road or on an island.

Gifts fall into the big three: possess, consume or experience.

For a lasting gift we have some incredible gift shops and clothing shops here in the West Highlands; shops which understand local (climate) needs.

We have shops selling well-chosen ranges of jewellery, much of it made in the region.

Or gift shops and galleries where the products on sale are carefully selected by an independent owner and not what someone at the head office of a multi-national decided 18 months ago.

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Do not forget our outdoor and sports shops; the owners are usually involved in the activity themselves and know what products are best suited here.

Gifts to consume are always welcome – whether that is a local whisky, gin or beer, one of the many high quality foods made here or a freezer or fridge full of fresh produce.

Incredible locally-produced soaps, candles, scents and potions are also welcome. Forget the old jokes about bubble bath, gloves and socks – when they are handmade or knitted in the Highlands, they are brilliant and extra thoughtful.

And as for gifts to experience, where do we start? You can be pampered in a spa or salon and yes, men too. You can be dining out or taking afternoon tea, a distillery tour and tasting or taking part in an adventurous activity.

Remember many of the national 'experience' gifts involve travelling miles and staying overnight so it makes sense to choose something local.



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SOMEWHERE **SPECIAL**

Here in the West Highlands we all agree that we live somewhere special – so why not shop here too?

It is better to give than to receive, it is said, but should we add that it is far better to enjoy buying something to give in the first place?

Let's face it – what is enjoyable about driving into the central belt in all kinds of weather, worrying about conditions for the drive home; being in huge, over-heated and over-crowded shops, centres and retail parks and having to fight your way to the nearest till.

Make shopping a pleasure again by staying at home and shopping locally. Take your time, stop for a coffee or even lunch, or end the day with an early evening meal or afternoon tea.

You aren't getting jostled, your kids aren't at risk of being trampled and everyone around you seems in a much, much better frame of mind, and so are you.

Don't forget that Santa makes visits to all our towns to meet youngsters, thanks to brilliant organisations and their small armies

COSY UP WITH THE ISLANDS

THIS CHRISTMAS

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of volunteers like the Lions clubs and Rotary and Bid4Oban, when he also brings his reindeer along! Enjoy listening to some fantastic Christmas busking thanks to local choirs and pipe bands and brass bands and accordionists – most of them are award-winning. What would you prefer to listen to: the pipes or piped music?

Better still, you are going to bump into people you know and haven't seen for ages and have time to stop for a chat.

When it comes to setting out to buy something special for someone who is special to you – why not start by making sure the place you do your shopping is special to you as well.

WANT, NEED, WEAR, READ

This idea has been floating around for a few years now as a way of cutting back on conspicuous consumption and the avalanche of presents your average first-world child receives along with the rest of the family.

Something they want, something they need, which might be expensive like a computer for school work, something new to wear and something to read. This only works if all gift-givers within the family agree on this well in advance. Beware the granny who thinks no one is going to tell her what she can and cannot buy her precious little angels or there will be tears before bedtime. It also fails massively if what the child wants to read is the instruction manual that comes with a new Xbox – and make that a bundle while you are at it. Parents of said children might have a double-up here; both wanting and needing gin.

THE OFFICIAL Jolomo CALENDAR 2020



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Announcing the official calendar of John Lowrie Morrison's images for 2020.

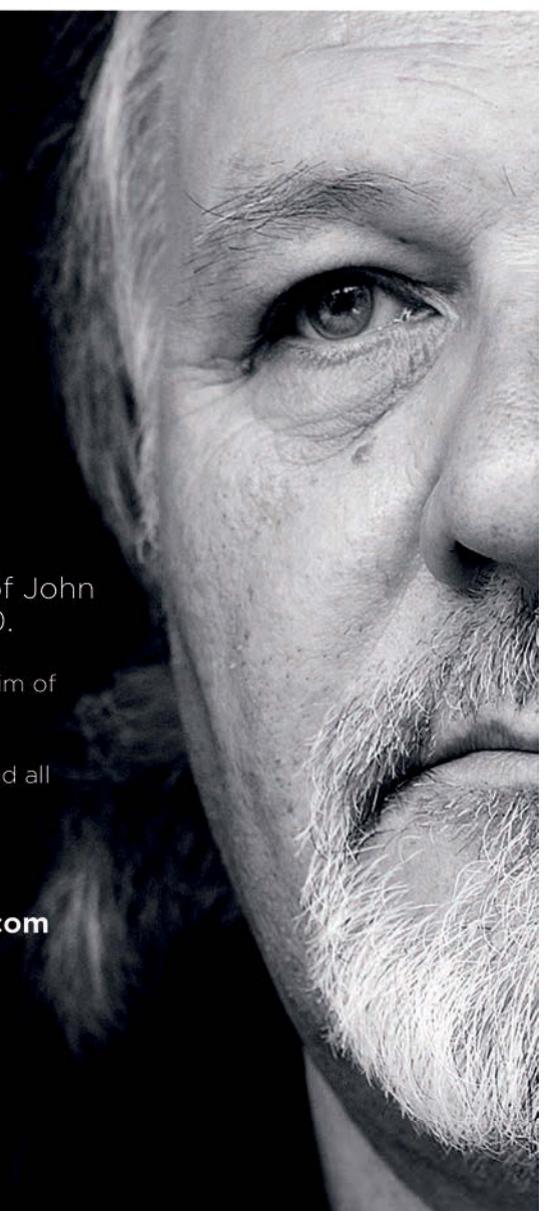
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email: sales@jolomo.com
phone: **01546 600020**
or **01546 870303**

And other selected outlets.

Price: **£17.99** plus postage



ALL WRAPPED UP FOR CHRISTMAS

If you are one of those people who are not spatially-aware this is a game changer, like rocket science or the discovery of fire: when wrapping, place the present diagonally on the paper, roll the paper round and fold in the corners. It gives a neater finish and uses far less paper. Likewise, double-sided sticky tape makes life a lot easier.

Go eco-friendly by avoiding plastic coated paper and ribbons.

If you want to be really eco-friendly turn to the Japanese and borrow their furoshiki tradition of a gift wrapped in a pretty piece of fabric. Tuck the fabric around the gift and neatly tie the corners across it. Check out the hundreds of videos on line showing how it is done and use the cloth again and again.

SOMETHING PERFECT

Isn't it a great feeling when you know that you have picked the perfect gift for someone?

But finding something special for that someone special is often hard to do.

Do not worry because across Argyll and the islands and Lochaber there is such a unique choice of goods and so many experiences to choose from.

We are lucky that we live in one of the top tourist destinations; the range of goods, services and entertainment on offer is incredibly wide for an area which has such a small population.

One thing that holiday makers like to do is buy a special treat for themselves or to take home to someone, so we have a far wider range of shops and services.

For example, there are specialists who have clothing perfect for our climate and for outdoor hobbies that so many of us enjoy, or goods to decorate our homes.

Many of them specialise in quality crafts or artisan products, often

ISUZU **S&S SERVICES** SUBARU

**Beat the EEP Price increase
January 2020**

**Put a Subaru BRZ under your tree
this Christmas and
register before 31/12/19**



S&S - WEEKLY VISITS TO ARGYLL FOR SALES AND SERVICE

Supporting the people of Argyll for over 30 years

S&S Services, Heathfield, Ayr Tel: 01292 880080 or John Spicer : 07831 808702

The IONA SHOP
OBAN ~ ARGYLL ~ SCOTLAND

Sheila Fleet

A TRULY STUNNING RANGE OF
SCOTTISH MADE JEWELLERY
IDEAL FOR THAT SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS PRESENT

SIMPLY CALL IN TO VIEW OUR
MANY RANGES AND DESIGNS

WWW.IONA.CO.UK

or view online

The Ideal Gift **Scottish Calendars 2020**

<p>FROM £11.99 including P&P*</p>	<p>FROM £7.99 including P&P*</p>	<p>FROM £6.99 including P&P*</p>	<p>FROM £6.99 including P&P*</p>
<p>FROM £7.99 including P&P*</p>	<p>FROM £7.99 including P&P*</p>	<p>Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2020 range visit: www.scottishcalendars.co.uk</p> <p><small>*additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW</small></p>	

ORDER ONLINE at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on **01778 392014**
OR POST ALL ORDERS to: Wyvex Media Subscriptions, FREEPOST RUAC-JUXA-GYAU Warners Group Publications plc, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

bespoke to our own needs or tastes.

We also have an incredible range of food and drink producers, from historic and nationally important distilleries to the thriving real ale scene and the newcomers – the burgeoning gin market. Add to this an impressive range of gifts made by chocolatiers, bakers, and coffee roasters. Then there is the produce from the land and sea.

Not only that, but cast your eye over some of the things on offer. Such a high percentage of them have been given awards and honours for what they do or make.

Recent trends have shown people are now thinking more about what they buy; about quality rather than quantity. Conspicuous consumption is on the wane.

Also people would rather spend their money on buying less and experiencing more – and that could be a mini-break, an evening meal, a concert, or festival, trying a new sport or travelling to an island.



Christmas at Islay Woollen Mill

We have a multitude of Christmas Gift ideas.

Scarves in both Wool and Cashmere.

Mens & Ladies Shirts, Gloves, Caps, Fleecy Body Warmers.
A limited number of Sports Jackets and Trousers @ 50% off

Knitwear & Jewellery

Cashmere Throws and Tweed Throws

We have made some new long super soft scarves in Fine Cashmere,
three times round your neck, down to the floor.

Islay Woollen Mill, Bridgend, Isle of Islay, PA44 7PG

Tel: 01496 810563 | Fax: 01496 810677

Email: mill@islaywoollenmill.co.uk | Web: www.islaywoollenmill.co.uk

2 FOR 1 TICKET OFFER for Country Living Magazine Christmas Fair

Country Living Magazine Christmas Fair is back at SEC, Glasgow from 21- 24 November 2019. The annual celebration of all things festive is a must for anyone looking to find everything for the perfect Christmas celebration under one roof. Save £19 with our 2 for 1 offer* and enjoy a day of festive fun.

Over 350 of the UK's finest designers, makers and boutique businesses will gather together under one roof to offer unique gifts, decorations, crafts, food and drinks and inspired interior ideas, to help bring that magical Christmas sparkle to every home. Visitors can source beautiful decorations and original gifts from gorgeous garlands and beautiful baubles, to glassware, scented candles and stylish cards. Arts and craft lovers can pick up haberdashery, ribbons, fabrics, sewing kits and craft essentials - everything required to get seriously creative this Christmas.

For the foodies, the temptations and treats are endless. An exclusive collection of artisan food and drink producers will give visitors the chance to sample authentic regional delicacies such as gourmet sausages and hams, local cheeses and pâté, Christmas cakes, puddings, chocolates and tempting festive drinks.

This is also the ideal place to find that unique Christmas outfit with a stunning collection of evening and designer daywear available, as well as beautiful accessories including bags, purses and jewellery. There will be gifts galore for the kids including handmade traditional wooden toys,

beautifully-made soft toys, chunky knitwear, cosy pyjamas, pretty party dresses, bright wellies and hundreds of other items ready to be wrapped and placed under the tree this Christmas.

The perfect day out wouldn't be complete without a glass of fizz. The Viking Cruise Champagne Bar is a great place to review purchases, plan the rest of the day's shopping or just relax with a glass of Champagne.

Country Living Magazine Christmas Fair is more than an exclusive shopping experience. There are lots of things to learn and try at two informative theatres where experts will offer invaluable advice and entertaining demonstrations.

- The Country Living Kitchen, sponsored by Stoves will bring together some of the country's finest food and drink producers. Visitors can watch demonstrations and pick up tips from top chefs and cooking professionals as they prepare tempting seasonal festive dishes, using delicious, fresh ingredients.

- The Country Living Crafting Workshops will give visitors the chance to create something special to take home. There will be a varied daily hands-on programme from sewing and needle felting to screen printing - workshop tutors will guide visitors as they create original items. Advance booking available. Tickets for The Country Living Crafting Workshops can be booked in advance, prices start from £8 each.

For further information or to book tickets call 0844 209 7348 or visit www.countrylivingfair.com/ticket-prices/

To purchase 2 for 1 tickets for £19 simply quote promo code: :241CLGPR11 when booking online at <http://www.countrylivingfair.com/> or CALL 0844 209 7348

This offer provides 2 tickets for £19, the advanced entry cost for one adult visitor. The offer is not valid for VIP tickets or add on ticket items. No cash alternative is available. A £2.20 book fee applies per transaction. The closing date is 17 November 2019. Calls cost 13p per minute plus network access charges.



FESTIVE LARDER

It pays to think clever when it comes to Christmas catering.

Whether it's for a party, family gathering or the big day itself, food can be made fresh, made in advance and made by somebody else.

Some parts of Christmas dinner have to be cooked from scratch; other parts can be made in advance and frozen or refrigerated: think stuffing, pudding, cranberry sauce.

Save the buying in for the things that you are not good at and thus cause you stress on the day.

Soggy roasties, lumpy gravy, or is life too short to wrap rashers of bacon around chipolata sausages? Just buy them ready-made.

Or buy in to impress.

WHISKY MADE BY HISTORY

Whisky from the whiskiest place in the world

Please enjoy responsibly drinkaware.co.uk for the facts



GLEN SCOTIA
CAMPBELTOWN SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY

The Perfect Christmas Gift!

Also available: Distillery only single cask bottlings.

Distillery open until 24th December.



WWW.GLENSCOTIA.COM

We all love a little something extra-special and home-made.

Today all the television food shows and Christmas foodie magazines can guilt you in to thinking that unless you can turn out a cake, superb brandy butter, mince pies or Christmas marmalade with whisky then you are a bit of a failure.

The answer is simple: cheat.

In the West Highlands there are so many talented people who make small-batch foodie specialities and you will find their produce in shops and at fairs – and even more so in the run up to Christmas.

Whether you rip off their label and lie about having made it yourself is up to you and your conscience. We won't tell.

ONE LONG FEAST

It pays to think strategically. Or as many people already know: you can never make too much mashed potatoes. Christmas day's mash makes a brilliant bubble and squeak with left over Brussel sprouts and cabbage. Or add spring onions and kale and call it colcannon. The internet is awash with recipes for how to use up all that left-over turkey so dip in and find one that you know your family will like.

When it comes to joints of meat, cheese and Christmas cake, a little tip: slice it up in advance and put back into the fridge on a covered plate otherwise people can tend to 'hack' at what's left, leaving an unappetising looking mess.

A good selection of mayonnaise, pickles, bread and crackers, salad vegetables and pasta salads and the fridge buffet will take care of any left-overs.

Best of all it has already been cooked!

Celebrating 25 Years in Scotland

Marvellous Mince Pies.

from
£1.35



Come one, come all and enjoy the amazing collection of mince pies we've assembled for this year's Christmas celebrations.



Lynn Road, Oban,
PA34 4PH

North Road Retail Park,
Fort William, PH33 6PP

Mon-Sat 8am-10pm Sun 9am-7pm

Mon-Sat 8am-10pm Sun 9am-8pm

Everyday Amazing.

Winston Churchill Venison at Balagowan Deer Larder



Delicious Wild Venison products
from Scotland's
South West Highlands

We are a very small, family run business that takes great pride in all that we do. We are located in an Argyllshire forest, very near to Dunoon with breathtaking views into Glen Kin and Kilmun hills across the Holy Loch.

Tel: 01369 705 319
Larder: 07879 491 181
Email: info@winstonchurchillvenison.com



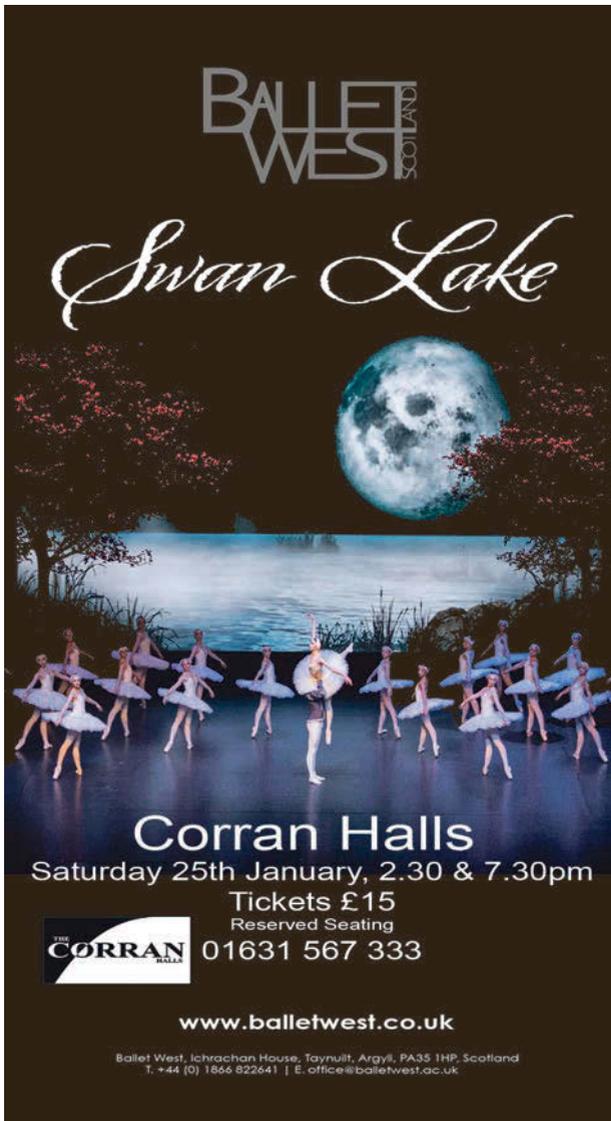
Treat someone special this Christmas The perfect gift

- * 12 ISSUES OF SCOTTISH FIELD FOR £45 plus receive a FREE Scottish Field mini calendar worth £7.99.
- * 6 ISSUES OF SCOTTISH FIELD FOR £25 (no calendar).

To tick someone off your Christmas list. *Simply...*

Call 01778 392014 and quote CHRISTMAS GIFT or go online and enter <http://bit.ly/30ZdTCc> to purchase your gift subscription.





BALLET WEST SCOTLAND

Swan Lake

Corran Halls
Saturday 25th January, 2.30 & 7.30pm
Tickets £15
Reserved Seating
01631 567 333

www.balletwest.co.uk

Ballet West, Ichrachan House, Tainult, Argyll, PA35 1HP, Scotland
T. +44 (0) 1866 822641 | E. office@balletwest.ac.uk

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL

It is time to unwrap an early Christmas gift this year as Oban Winter Festival brings 10 days of magic to the town. For the ninth year the volunteer committee behind the fantastic event has packed it full of events which run from November 15-24 and tied it with a big bow of extra activities to mark St Andrew's Day over the weekend of November 30. This year's theme is Fantasy Frost and Fairy-tales. Oban Phoenix Cinema is showing a sing-along of the movie Frozen and then Frozen 2, plus more. The Glencruitten woods are going to be illuminated again with an adventure for all the family to enjoy including story telling and a night-time trail through the enchanted woods. Remember that access is by mini-bus shuttle only. If you really want a taste of frost and ice you must go along to the snowboard simulator which will be visiting Atlantis Leisure, provided by The Ice Factor, Kinlochleven, home to the world's biggest ice wall and the Snow Factor Braehead, home of the biggest indoor real snow slope.

What's the best gift you can give this Christmas?



Love Oban Gift Vouchers can be redeemed at over 80 businesses throughout Oban and are valid for 12 months! Check out **Love Oban** on Facebook for Christmas promotions and Festive Headliners.

You can buy your **Love Oban** Gift Vouchers from:

**Alba Art Shop, Button Nose,
Oban Phoenix Cinema, The Sports Shop,
Etive Restaurant,
Websters of Oban and
BID4oban Office**

**SEE PAGES 22 + 23
FOR THIS YEARS
SHOP LOCAL SPECIAL**



**NOW IT'S
EASIER THAN
EVER TO
LOVE OBAN!**



Oban Business Improvement District
www.bid4oban.co.uk



The festival officially begins on Friday November 15 and starts with the parade of the Winter Queen as she rides her unicorn through Oban performing her magic and casting spells as she makes her way from Corran Halls at 5pm to travel to Station Square, back along the Esplanade then return to Corran Halls to be joined by the children from Ballet West and officially open the festival and fairground.

The next 10 days will have more than 100 events, including the very popular selection of markets at Oban Distillery, Perle Hotel and Corran Halls, the young entrepreneurs showcase at Oban Distillery and junior entrepreneurs at Oban Chocolate Company.

Thursday November 21 is late night shopping time – look out for the shops with lanterns outside with special discounts and bargains on offer. Some are offering goodie bags to early birds.

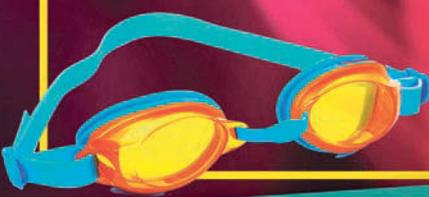
MAKING OBAN SPARKLE

As well as the Christmas Lights switching on ceremony, look out for extra lights this year, thanks to investment and funding by BID40ban. There will be more Christmas tree lights added along the Esplanade and around the town. One of the most iconic Christmas light features in the town centre, the lights festooning the huge tree at the entrance to the Rockfield Centre, have been redone this year. The tree will be lit up when the town's Christmas lights are switched on. New lights along the Black Lynn between Stevenson Street and Airds Crescent have also been installed. Both these projects are thanks to Oban Business Improvement District (BID40ban) and the Oban Common Good Fund. A special thanks goes to MacNiven Electrics Oban for the installation and ARK Productions for the design of the lighting. New lighting has also been installed to illuminate the Lorne Bar, the rockface at the rear of the Lorne Bar and the Ranald Hotel. It is our hope that everyone enjoys themselves and has a fantastic time and that as many shops as possible stay open for the late night shopping in the run up to Christmas. Please remember to spend and shop locally. By doing so you are sustaining local businesses. It's easy to click, click, click but do you really want a town of empty shops?



as part of
oban WINTER FESTIVAL

INFLATABLE IN POOL DISCO
SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

 12.30PM-1.30PM
(ONE WEEK ONLY)
£3 - Bookable

DISCO WITH GEORGE NOBLE

ROLLER DISCO
SATURDAY 16TH &
23RD NOVEMBER

Roller Disco Main Hall
11am-12.30pm
£3.50 including skate hire
£2.20 if you bring your own skates



Book at reception on 01631 566800



NORIES

Award Winning
The most popular and
established chippy in Oban

Three generations of frying excellence

Open 12 mid day - Late

Seating Available

Visit the best chippy in Oban



Nories Fish & Chip Shop
Sit in or take away
88 George St, Oban. 01631 563736



oban WINTER FESTIVAL

Friday 15th November

FESTIVAL OPENING

Corran Halls to Station Square Parade 5pm. Gathering outside Corran Halls with children from Ballet West for Winter Festival official opening. Events and fairground 6pm

BALLET WEST WINTER WONDERLAND

Corran Halls, Oban, doors open 6.30pm for 7pm
Tickets £12 Concessions £10
Corran Halls 01631 567333

CHARITY FASHION SHOW

M & C, Station Square 6.30pm.
Tickets £5 from M&Co
Proceeds to HCPT Group 43

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

2040

An innovative and profound feature documentary about the planet's future
6pm

THE ADDAMS FAMILY MOVIE

An animated version of Charles Addams' series of cartoons. www.obanphoenix.com for prices, films and times
Heritage Blether - Dance Bands
A cuppa and trip down memory lane
The Rockfield Centre
2-4pm

WINTER WOODS

Beautifully lit, wintery woods and enchanted walled garden in the grounds of Glencruitten Woods, presented by Greenshoots Oban. Entry strictly by minibus shuttle from shore street. No public parking or drop off at event

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments available. Torch, outdoor footwear and warm clothing recommended. Ticketed event. Adults £6.50, Children £3.25, 2 years and under free. See Oban Winter Festival website for ticket info

MARKIE DANS

Live music with Crackin' Craic until 2am.

HERON VALLEY & BEINN LEE

The View, George Street Oban
General Admission £18, U18
Concession £15.
7.30pm

OBAN WHISKY & FINE WINES

Winterfest Whisky Tasting
Oban Whisky & Fine Wines, Stafford Street
Tickets £10 Available from shop
8pm

Saturday 16th November

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL FOOD & CRAFT MARKET

A feast of food, drink and traditional crafts from local producers. Live music, facepainters and fire engine. Oban Distillery Cask Room and Visitor Centre
10am-4pm
Free Entry
Gaelic Bookbug
Ceardall Comhaidh (Gaelic Conversation Group)
All levels at Furan Gaelic Centre
12pm - 1.30pm
Free Entry

HOW TO BUILD A CASTLE

Castles: Powerful, Dramatic, Strongholds full of great big bits of stone.
Family friendly tours around Dunstaffnage Castle
Open 10am-4pm (last admission 3.30pm)
3 Tours a day 11am, 12.30pm 2pm
Included in the price of admission
Adults £6 Concessions £4.80 Under 5s free
For more info call the castle on 01631 562465

NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD - TOURS

Discover the challenges undertaken and engineering marvels created by NLB.
Guided tour, live music, food stalls, video displays and exhibition. Some areas may have limited access.
Tours 10am, 11am, 1pm, 3p
Entry by donation
Northern Lighthouse Board,
Gallanach Road Oban.

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL VICTORIAN MARKET

The popular annual themed market with a unique array of handmade goods and gifts.
The Perle Hotel Station Square
10am - 4.30pm
Free Entry

SHETLAND PONIES

Have your photo taken with Bobby and Charlie
Donations to Oban and Lorn Riding For The Disabled
Stafford Street Oban
2pm-4pm

OBAN WINTER BRICKS

Come and see top displays from members of Scotland's only recognised LEGO® User Group Tartan LUG and Brick to the Past.
Building, tombola, demonstrations and shopping!
St Columba's Cathedral Hall
10am-4pm
(LAST ENTRY 3.45PM)
Entry is £3 ages 5 and over; 4 and under is free. Cash-only event. Fundraising for Fairy Bricks Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance - SCAA.
Follow ObanWinterBricks2019 on Facebook for more info.

TASTE OF ARGYLL LOCAL PRODUCERS' MARKET

Cookery and coffee roasting demos along with local food and craft market
The View, George Street, Oban
12pm-6pm
Free Entry

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID CRAFT FAYRE

A huge variety of stalls
Corran Halls, Oban
11am - 3pm
Free Entry

POOI INFLATABLES

Come and try session. For over 8's, must be able to swim. Pre-booking essential at reception.
Sessions 12.30pm-1.30pm. Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban
£3

ROLLER DISCO at ATLANTIS LEISURE

11am-12.30pm
£3.50, includes skate hire, £2.20 if you bring your own skates
AtlantisLeisure

SNOWBOARD SIMULATOR

Come and try your snowboarding skills, provided by The Ice Factor, Kinlochleven
11am-3pm
3 tries for £3
Atlantis Leisure

OCEAN FOOD FOR CHRISTMAS: A family science fun event

Performances, displays, craft activities, seaweed tastings and seafood recipes. Come and 'sea' the world a little differently...
Saturday 16th November
11am-3.00pm
Entry £3 (Kids are free)

THE MODERN CROFT

Something for gentlemen.
Collaboration with Scottish menswear brand Hunter Kingsley offering by appointment fittings for bespoke tailoring such as suits and separates.
North Pier, Oban

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

Frozen Singalong!

Find your inner Elsa, Anna, Kristoff or even Olaf ahead of Frozen 2 coming to the cinema on 22/11. Sing-along, raffle, fancy dress! This is a FUNdraiser for the primary 7's residential trip.
11.30am. All Tickets £3

2040

An innovative and profound feature documentary about the planet's future. 6pm

The Addams Family movie

See website for times and prices.

BIG QUIZ NIGHT

Corran Halls Oban
7pm Tickets £5 per person. Hundreds of churches, thousands of people, one big quiz.
Teams of up to 8. Tea, coffee, snacks.
Tickets, Corran Halls 01631 567333

BRING A PRESENT TO SANTA'S ELVES

Help those less fortunate by bringing a present to Santa's Elves. Mark wrapped gift for child or adult. Meet the Elves and have some festive fun.
The Rockfield Centre
12pm - 4pm

SANTA'S POSTBOX.

Santa's postbox for that important letter to Santa will be sited at Rockfield Centre during Festival

BELGIAN BOOKBINDING WITH BETH LANCASTER

This beautiful and unusual stitching creates a hardback book that is sturdy yet stylish.
The Rockfield Centre
11am-3pm. Suitable for adults 16+
£22 online booking via The Rockfield Centre

Sunday 17th November

WINTER WOODS

Beautifully lit, wintery woods and the enchanted walled garden in the grounds of Glencruitten Woods, presented by Greenshoots Oban. Entry strictly by minibus shuttle from shore street. No public parking or drop off at event

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments available. Torch, outdoor footwear and warm clothing recommended. Ticketed event. Adults £6.50, Children £3.25, 2 years and under free. See Oban Winter Festival website for ticket info.

THE BIG FOOD AND CRAFT MARKET

Competitions! Cloutie Dumpling, Shortbread, Jam, Jammie Man, Junior Jammy and Children's COMPETITIONS
Entry forms available from West Coast Motors
Winners' recipes will be printed in the Oban Times

MARKET STALLS

Arts, crafts, gift, food, face painters, Selkie Sand Art.
Live Music, refreshments
Corran Halls, Oban
10am - 4pm
Free Entry

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

Information about local activities and groups which can help us to beat the winter. Tina Jordan 07584 310 056 / Tina@acumennetwork.org for info.
Corran Halls Studio Theatre
12.30pm-4pm

ONLY 5 WEEKS TO GO!

Christmas Flower Arranging
Demonstration by Mrs Linda Soutar from Dunfermline.
Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban
2pm
Tickets £10 which includes Afternoon Tea, from Petals George Street, Oban and The Dove Centre, Stevenson Street, Oban

HIGHLAND GLASS

Painting & fusing Christmas Tree Hangers for adults and children
12pm-3pm
4 hangers made from reclaimed glass £25

CERAMICS DECORATIONS

Make Christmas Tree hangers from clay
4pm-7pm
£15

NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD TOURS

Discover the challenges undertaken and engineering marvels created by NLB.
Guided tour, live music, food stalls, video displays and exhibition. Some areas may have limited access.
Tours 10am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm entry by donation
Northern Lighthouse Board,
Gallanach Road Oban.
Art Explorers at Winterfest 2019

Make & take project: Pet Haggis Rocks - Keep one and donate 2 to the

GREAT HAGGIS HUNT!

Children must be supervised.
The Rockfield Centre
2pm-4pm.
Free Event
Book places at Oban Winter Festival Website.

TASTE OF JAPAN

ORIGAMI

2pm-3pm
Drop in event - entry by donation

JAPANESE CONVERSATION

3.30pm-4.30pm
Very easy, learn some simple words and enjoy speaking Japanese. Drop in event entry by donation

SUSHI

Home made sushi and tips on how to make sushi at home
6pm-8pm
Salvation Army Hall, Stevenson Street Oban
Tickets for sushi night: £10 available from Mary's Meals from 9/11. Enquiries Mary's Meals 01631 566884

HOW TO BUILD A CASTLE

Castles: Powerful, Dramatic, Strongholds full of great big bits of stone.

Join one of our family friendly tours around Dunstaffnage Castle.
Open 10am-4pm (last admission 3.30pm)

3 Tours a day 11am, 12.30pm 2pm
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3 tries for £3
Atlantis Leisure

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OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

2040

An innovative and profound feature documentary about the planet's future
6pm

THE ADDAMS FAMILY MOVIE
See cinema website for times.

Monday 18th November

JEWELLERY MAKING WORKSHOP

Unique jewellery workshop.
Bollinwood The Smithy, George Street
Call in to book or call 01631 358594

WINTER PRAISE INFORMAL WORSHIP

St John's Cathedral, Oban Winter Praise Informal Worship
Wintery Refreshments from 6.30pm
Worship and Praise - 7pm- 8pm.
All are welcome

FORAGED FOOD & WHISKY PAIRING

Meet Chef and forager Gary Goldie. Experience 4 courses with Oban whiskies at this bespoke event. Music: David Guerra.
Corran Halls Oban 7pm.
Tickets £25 from Oban Distillery

MINI MUSIC and CULTURE CLUB

Mini Music and Culture Club: children learning through music and movement, under the expert guidance of Aileen Hornby. Sessions are FREE / DONATIONS welcome.
The Rockfield Centre 11.30am -12.30pm

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

THE ADDAMS FAMILY MOVIE
Check cinema website for times.

Tuesday 19th November

BLASAD GAIDHLIG (GAELIC TASTER SESSION)

A basic introduction to Gaelic words and phrases
Fuiran Centre Corran Halls Oban
7pm-8.30pm.
Free Entry

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

THE ADDAMS FAMILY MOVIE
Check cinema website for times.

MARKS & SPENCER FASHION SHOW

Latest clothing collection and sample some of our tasty Christmas foods.
7pm-8pm

Wednesday 20th November

OBAN DANCE ACADEMY

Oban's Talent Gateway
A full set of dancing from all of our classes, Musical Theatre, Cheerleading, Ballet, Hip Hop from performers ages 2-Adult.
Corran Halls, Oban
5pm.
Doors Open 4.30pm
Tickets Adults £7.50 Children/ Concessions £5
Available from Oban Dance Academy Studio, Soroba Road, Oban

UNDER THE SKIN CAMERA CLUB

New members' night
Into creative photography? Join the club!
The Rockfield Centre
6:30pm - 7:30pm
All welcome.

BLASAD GAIDHLIG (GAELIC TASTER SESSION)

A basic introduction to Gaelic words and phrases
Fuiran Centre Corran Halls Oban
7pm-8.30pm. Free Entry

MECOPP

Come and celebrate with the Gypsy/ Traveller Community through story telling, music and fantastic exhibitions.

7pm - 9pm, New Hope, 2 Soroba Road, Oban. Free event but donations welcome towards refreshments. Contact Hope Kitchen for more information 01631 565730 Free Entry

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

THE ADDAMS FAMILY MOVIE
Check cinema website for times.

Thursday 21st November

FELLA-DHA-FURAN

Songs and rhymes for children (0-5)
Hosted by Pigheid, the Gaelic-speaking parrot!
12pm-1pm

BLASAD GAELIC (GAELIC TASTER SESSION)

7pm-8.30pm
Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls Oban

BOOKBUG

Fantasy Frost & Fairytales to promote Book Week Scotland
Oban Library, Drimvargie Terrace, Oban
Special Appearance from The Forest Queen
9.30am & 11am

NETHERLORN PIPING SOCIETY

Piping Recital
Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street
7.30pm

KINTYRE GIN AND OBAN CHOCOLATE

Strict dress code; Christmas Jumpers (prizes will be awarded for the best/worst!)
Raffle; in aid of Homestart Lorn 7pm-9pm.
Tickets £15, available from Oban Chocolate Company
Over 18s only please.

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

Most shops open until 8pm
Look out for the shops with lanterns outside - they are open with treats and special discounts, pick up a bargain tonight!

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

Kids @ cinema = mum and dad late night shopping!

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING KIDS FILM

Mystery film cert PG. Look around the town for clues
Showing at 6pm

FANCY THAT & SCI-FI PLANET

Late night shopping 10% off.
Mulled wine and shortbread
George Street, Oban

OBAN MOBILE SHOP

We will be open for late night shopping offering screen replacement with free tempered glass and free gel covers.
George Street

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

Specially reduced stock. Find a Christmas outfit! Mince pies for everyone!

OXFAM

Pick up a bargain till late!

CANCER RESEARCH SHOP

New Christmas range. Festive nibbles.
George Street, Oban

BOLLYWOOD/THE SMIDDY

Jewellery Making Demonstration 50% off all candles. Festive nibbles
George Street, Oban

THE JETTY GALLERY

Pop in for something special

2019 guide

For further details on all events please see the event guide at obanwinterfestival.com

OBAN CYCLES

10% discount on adult bikes purchased/ordered on the evening and great offers. Mulled Wine and Hot chocolate for shoppers
George Street, Oban

OBAN LAZER TREATMENTS

Carbon Lazer Facials to reduce acne scars, dull skin, fine lines, wrinkles and more. Pop in for a demo!
Craigard Road, Oban.

PICTURE THIS

Woodcraft, candles, artwork and framing. Festive nibbles for everyone!
Craigard Road Oban

TRESPASS

15% off Trespass brand products (excluding Trespaws) and providing some nibbles.
George Street, Oban

ROOM 15

Free Goody bags for first 20 shoppers. Christmas nibbles.

THE WEE GALLERY

Stafford Street, Oban
Pop in & pick up an original gift.

OBAN BAY GIFTS

Festive nibbles & Mulled Wine
George Street, Oban

BABA'S AMERICAN CANDY

10% off sales, open until 9pm
George Street, Oban

DOLCE VITA

Tea, coffee, desserts. 10% off all foodstuffs.
George Street, Oban

THE GEM BOX

20% discount. Free gift when you spend £25. Fizz & Fancies. Esplanade, Oban.
9am-7.30pm

THE MODERN CROFT

10% discount across our own range on the night.
North Pier, Oban

HIGHLAND SOAP COMPANY

Free gift for sales over £20
George Street, Oban.
Open until 9pm

MACINTYRES

10% off and festive fare
George Street, Oban

FAT FACE

Special Festival offer, buy one get one 10% off
George Street, Oban

EDINBURGH WOOLEN MILL

20% off on the night. Festive Nibbles, Open until 7pm
George Street, Oban

CHALMERS OF OBAN

20% off! And festive Nibbles – open until 7pm
George Street, Oban

SUPERDRUG

Free gifts with purchases. Limited to first come first served!
George Street, Oban

GORDON'S CHEMIST

20% off fragrance sets and exclusive pre Black Friday deals. Clarins 10% off Refreshments. Open until 7.30pm
George Street, Oban

THE TARTAN HOUSE OF SCOTLAND

Sample our shortbread, fudge, tablet and rock.
George Street, Oban

OBAN ART SOCIETY

Come along, meet the artists, get that special Christmas gift
Army Cadet Hall, Argyll Street, Oban
Free entry. Open until 7.30pm

THE DOVE CENTRE

Drop in and look around our centre.
Mince pies, mulled wine, live music.
Stevenson Street, Oban

MARY'S MEALS

Entertainment, nibbles & refreshments. Goodie Bags for first 30 customers.
Book ahead in shop.
Stevenson Street, Oban

THE ROCKFIELD CENTRE

Amazing selection of glasses – perfect for the festive season.
Festive nibbles

ORSAY

See the new Christmas range. Fizz and mince pies
Stevenson Street, Oban

TASTE OF ARGYLL

Festive food and drink, food demos, willow baskets, cakes, needlecraft, photography, tasters & fizz
Combie Street, Oban. Open until 9pm

OUTSIDE EDGE

Christmas gift ideas.
Complimentary Vin Chaud (hot wine)
George Street, Oban

THE SPORTS SHOP

Fantastic 15% off.
George Street, Oban

THE IONA SHOP

10% off all day, glass of bubbles in the evening.
Open until 7.30pm
2 Queens Park Place, Oban

BUTTON NOSE

Open until 8.30pm. Free goodie bag for first 20 customers with £15 spend after 5pm.
Stevenson Street, Oban

THE BEAUTY LOUNGE

Demos treatments, bubbly and gifts to buy for Christmas.
Discounts on vouchers
1 Campbell Street, Oban

New lines, unique gifts exclusive to Alba.
Free early bird goodie bags.
Christmas Hospitality

McCAIG'S WAREHOUSE

20% off and festive Nibbles - open until 7pm

MARKS & SPENCER

Christmas foods samples
Open until 9pm

Friday 22nd November

OBAN PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB AND THE ROCKFIELD CENTRE UNDER THE SKIN CAMERA CLUB PRESENTS

Winter Festival /Christmas Display & Sale. Free entry and refreshments available. The Rockfield Centre
11am-4pm

WINTER WARBLINGS AT HOPE KITCHEN

Live traditional and classical music with Soup and Cake Lunch
2pm- 3pm at the World Famous Parsley's One Cat Café.
5pm-8pm. Live Music and Karaoke
Night at Hope Kitchen
Entry by donation
New Hope, 2 Soroba Road, Oban
01631 565730

CHOIRS AND CANDLES

Back by popular demand in the atmospheric St John's Cathedral. Oban Gaelic Choir, Tainuillt Gaelic Choir, Sequence Choir, Bach Choir, Lorn Chorus, Oban Community Singers, Rockfield Primary School Choir, Davide Guerra and lots more.
St John's Cathedral, George Street Oban, 7.30pm. Entry by donation

WHISKY TASTING

5 drams, all of them exclusive to The Whisky Shop.
Tickets are £15 each and pre-booking is advised.
Also, free tastings during the day for the duration of the Winter Festival.

OLD OBAN NIGHT

With Bob MacCulloch
Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies
Kilmore and Oban Parish Church Hall,
Glencruitten Road, Oban
7.30pm

Proceeds to Cancer Research UK

LEUGH LEABHAR

Children's Gaelic reading club – reading and drama games in Gaelic
Fuiran Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban.
4pm-5pm

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

FROZEN 2

Anna, Elsa, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven leave Arendelle on their newest adventures. Check cinema website www.obanphoenix.com for prices, films and times.

OBAN WHISKY & FINE WINES

Enjoy tasters of the fine range of The Dundee Gin Company's gins and liqueurs.
Oban Whisky & Fine Wines, Stafford Street Oban
Tickets £10

Saturday 23rd November

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL SCOTTISH FOOD & CRAFT MARKET

A feast of food, drink and traditional crafts from local producers. Plus live music, fire engine
Oban Distillery, Cask Room and Old Milling Room
10am-4pm
Free Entry

SHETLAND PONIES

Have your photo taken with Bobby And Charlie
Stafford Street, Oban 2pm-4pm
Donations to Oban and Lorn Riding For The Disabled

PERLE HOTEL MARKET

Winter Market, Stalls with hand made goods, glass, cards, knitting, teas etc
10am-4pm

CORRAN HALLS FOOD & CRAFT MARKET

Meats, sauces, arts, crafts, food and more plus face painters, Selkie Sand Art, music and entertainment, Catering by Catch a Carrot, Raffle, Tea, Coffee, Food
10am-4pm

GAELIC BOOKBUG

10.30am
Cearcall Comhraidh (Gaelic Conversation Group)
Suitable for all levels
12pm-1.30pm
Fuiran Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban

HIGHLAND GLASS

Flame working bead making demos all day.
Lower Dunollie Rd (behind Farmfoods)

OBAN PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB AND THE ROCKFIELD CENTRE UNDER THE SKIN CAMERA CLUB PRESENTS

Winter Festival /Christmas Display & Sale
Entry free and refreshments available.
The Rockfield Centre
11am-4pm

CRAFT CAFE IN OBAN YOUTH CAFE

Everyone welcome, very informal. Refreshments, Small donation towards crafts welcome
3pm-6pm
Oban Youth Café, 4 Albany Terrace, George Street (opposite the cinema)

THE MODERN CROFT

Something for the gentlemen. Collaboration with Scottish menswear brand Hunter Kingsley offering by appointment fittings for bespoke tailoring such as suits and separates
North Pier, Oban

TARTAN DASH

Wear some tartan and join parkrun for the Tartan Dash
Register in advance via parkrun.com
Pipers, Food, Fun and Run (or walk!)
Ganavan, 9.30am

HAGGIS HURLING

Who will be the 2019 Haggis Hurling Champion?
Adult and child trophy
10am-12pm at the shinty pitch.

REINDEER PARADE

(Organised by BID4Oban)
Santa and his Reindeer leave the Corran Halls at 5pm for Station Square.
Come and join the parade and entertainment. Christmas Lights 'Switch On'
At 6pm in Station Square.

MARKIE DANS

Live music with local band Ceol an Aire until 2am.
Festive food served 12pm until 9pm.

ROLLER DISCO

11am-12.30pm
£3.50 includes skates, £2.20 if you bring your own skates.
Atlantis Leisure

SNOWBOARD SIMULATOR

Come and try your snowboarding skills, provided by The Ice Factor, Kinlochleven
11am-3pm
3 tries for £3
Atlantis Leisure

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

FROZEN 2

More adventures from Anna, Elsa, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven.
Check cinema website for prices, films and times.

Sunday 24th November

THE GREAT HAGGIS HUNT

Calling all Haggis Hunters! Find hidden Haggis Pets in return for a free light stick for the Sunday Light Show. See website for picture of hunted Haggis and more info
12pm – 4pm

HAGGIS FESTIVAL

In the Year of the Haggis, butchers go head to head to win the coveted Golden Haggis Award. Cast your vote in the People's Choice Award.
Oban Distillery Cask Room
12.30-3pm
£2
Proceeds to Oban High School Pipe Band.

WHISKY FESTIVAL

Meet some of the team from Oban Clynelish and Dalwhinnie distilleries. Learn about the ancient art of coopering, enjoy a dram or a hot toddie and sample our whisky fudge. Entry to the event is free but there will be a charge for the whisky offerings.
Oban Distillery Old Filling Store
12.30-3pm

YEAR OF THE HAGGIS

In celebration of the Year of The Haggis, Cuan Mor, George Street, Oban and Tainuillt Hotel will be serving Haggis Specials

SANTA'S GROTTTO

Visit Santa in his grotto and receive a gift. Refreshments available.
The Rockfield Centre
1pm till 4pm,
£3.50 per child

DUNOLLIE MAKES CHRISTMAS

Traditional crafts, music, festive food & drink and handmade gifts
Adults: £6 Children: £3 Family tickets available. Outdoor footwear and clothing recommended
Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds
12pm-5pm.
www.dunollie.org/events

WREATH MAKING

At The Modern Croft with Gill Stewart of Love Dove Studio, Lochgilphead. Take your design home along with a small gift from The Modern Croft Range. Nibbles included.
Tickets £50.
North Pier, Oban
Visit website for more info.

ROLLER DISCOS

2.30pm-3.30pm and 3.45pm-4.45pm in the sports hall
Price £2.20 if you bring your own skates - £4 includes hire of skates
Atlantis Leisure

SNOWBOARD SIMULATOR

Come and try your snowboarding skills, provided by The Ice Factor, Kinlochleven
Atlantis Leisure
11am-3pm
3 tries for £3

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

MONTHLY MUSICAL

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

MUSICAL CERT 12a
The story of the legendary British rock band Queen
5pm

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL LIGHT AND FIRE SHOW

Come to Oban Distillery Courtyard before the lightshow FOR a whole load of fun and entertainment
5.30pm, Lightshow at 6pm

Monday 25th November

Hand bells and Christmas Carols concert

featuring Muckairn Ringers, Fumiko Miller, Mairi Harrower
Oban Parish Church
2pm
Entry by Donation!
In aid of Carr Gomm Charity Number SC033491

Friday 29th November

OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

SCOTTISH FAIRYTALES & ART

Make & take projects: 2 creative projects
Children must be accompanied by an adult
The Rockfield Centre, Oban (book via website)
Free

INNOVATIVE SCOTLAND

An evening of choreographed Highland Dancing celebrating Scotland's Industries.
Featuring Sinclair School of Dance, Laura Munro School of Dance and Appin School of Dance.
Corran Halls
7pm
Tickets from Corran Halls, Adults: £6 Concessions: £4

Saturday 30th November

ST. ANDREW'S DAY YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS' MARKET

Marvel at the talent of our up and coming young entrepreneurs under the age of 30.
2pm-4pm, Oban Distillery. Free Event

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEURS' MARKET

Come and see the creative junior entrepreneurs showcase their talent! Free entry & hot spiced apple punch!
Age 10-16. 4.30pm-6pm
Oban Chocolate Company, Esplanade, Oban

CREATE and MAKE IT FOR CHRISTMAS

Create unique gifts for friends and family. Tutor led workshops. All materials supplied.
Book ahead at www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk
Free event.
The Rockfield Centre
10am - 4pm

LET'S MAKE A SCENE – WINTER SPECIAL

Song /comedy / spoken word – open Mic night.
The Rockfield Centre, Oban
Entry by Donation

LOCAL HEROES – LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS' LUNCH

Meet your local heroes of the sea. Stalls, Food, Exhibitions, Jewellery Workshops, Video and Live Music
Entry £2. Food available to purchase.
Book via website www.obanwinterfestival.com

GAELIC BOOKBUG

10.30am
Furan Centre, Oban

CEARCALL COMHRAIDH

(Gaelic Conversation Group)
suitable for all levels.
Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban
12pm-1.30pm
Free Entry

GLENCRUITTEN CATHEDRAL OF TREES

Join one of our guided tours (12 noon, 2pm and 3pm) and learn about the history and future of the Cathedral. Enjoy a cup of soup and chat around the fire. Support the Cathedral of Trees by becoming a Member or Volunteer. Entry by donation, suggest £5.
Open Day 11am -4pm. Tickets online.

WREATH MAKING & EARRING WORKSHOP

Wreath Making and Earring Workshop with sweet treats and nibbles. All materials supplied, no experience needed.
12pm-4pm Hope Kitchen, Oban.
Donations to Hope Kitchen. New Hope, 2 Soroba Road, Oban 01631 565730

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA

THE VANISHING CERT 15

Three lighthouse keepers on the remote Flannan Isles find a hidden trunk of gold, leading to their mysterious disappearance
www.obanphoenix.com for prices, films and times.

St. ANDREW'S DAY FIREWORKS

Winter Festival Special Firework Finale @ 6.30pm
Views of McCaig's Tower & NLB pier advised

THE BIG ST. ANDREW'S BASH

Featuring, Oban Gaelic Choir, Lovat & Tullibardine winners at this year's Royal National Mod with groundbreaking arrangements by conductor Sileas Sinclair, Oban Pipe Band, OHS Trad School of Music. With special guests: OHS Pipe Band, Award winning Junior World Champions, led and inspired by the legendary Angus MacColl
Dance the night away to Trad Award Winners Deoch n Dorus (Ceilidh & Country)
7.30pm
Tickets Adults: £7 Concessions: £5 Family (of 4): £20
To Book tickets visit www.obanwinterfestival.com or on sale at Oban Music.



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GOOD LUCK TO OBAN WINTER FESTIVAL

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID
Rehoming animals in Argyll & the Isles

Can you offer a home to a new family member?
www.argyllanimalaid.org.uk
01631 566406
Registered charity since 1991 SC013211

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
16th November 2019
BRIC-A-BRAC & BOOKS
38 Craft & Gift Stalls
TEA & COFFEE
Home Baking
Corran Halls Oban 11-3pm



OBAN REINDEER PARADE

The ever-popular Reindeer Parade and visit from Santa and Christmas lights switch-on in Oban takes place on Saturday November 23. The event is one of the biggest draws in the Oban calendar. Oban Business Improvement District (BID4Oban) fully funds the parade. Andrew Spence from BID said: 'We are glad to support the Oban Winter Festival with the reindeer parade and lights switch-on.'

This is the eighth year that Santa has arrived in town in style, thanks to Oban Business Improvement District with help from Rotary Club of Oban, Oban Lions Club and Cairngorm Reindeer Company plus the hard work of Oban Electrical Services getting the lights ready for Christmas.

The reindeer will be travelling from their home in the Cairngorms on Saturday morning and, along with Santa Claus their first stop will be to visit the residents of Eadar Glinn Care Home to hand out some early Christmas presents. The parade starts at 5pm on Saturday November 23 from the Corran Halls. A special thanks in advance go to Police Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council and the Auxiliary Coastguard for keeping everyone safe.



GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS
THE PERFECT PRESENT THIS CHRISTMAS

£28.99

For only £28.99 you will be gifting a digital copy of the paper every week as well as full access to the OT website and digital archive - Every scrap of local news available at your fingertips from the past decade or more - It is the perfect gift for anyone connected to Argyll

Give someone you care about a Christmas gift that they will appreciate all year round

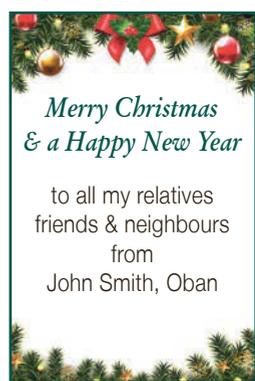
www.obantimes.co.uk/gifts

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 12th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST £20

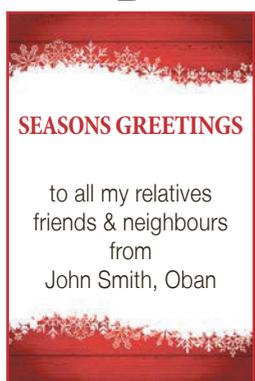
A



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives
friends & neighbours
from
John Smith, Oban

B



SEASONS GREETINGS

to all my relatives
friends & neighbours
from
John Smith, Oban

C



JOHN AND JANE SMITH, OBAN

would like to wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a merry Christmas

Simply fill in the coupon below with your special festive message and send or hand in to:-

OBAN TIMES, LOCHAVULLIN IND EST, OBAN TEL: 01631 568000
OBAN TIMES, 22 HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM TEL: 01397 703003
ONLY £20 (inc. VAT.) OPTIONS A,B OR C.

PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or Phone in your message quoting your Master Card/Visa Number
Deadline Friday 6th December. To appear Thursday 12th December

MESSAGE 20 words maximum

*NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....
..... Tel.....
20 words maximum PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

A **B** **C**

PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.
*(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

DE

During the summer you will find BID4Oban hard at work with hanging baskets and helping the town make the best first impression so it can prosper with activities like guided walks and Town Ambassadors.

The Reindeer Parade and the Christmas lights switch-on ceremony is part of its remit to help extend the season and is its contribution to the work done by the winter festival committee.

This year Oban Business Improvement District has awarded the winter festival an additional £4,000 to support and sustain this fantastic event. More than 3,000 people turned out to watch last year's Christmas lights switch-on. Oban Pipe Band leads the parade, then comes Santa in his sleigh. Oban FM joins in the fun at Station Square. There are also fair-ground rides for tots, Argyll Hog Roast, Dougie Dan's van and Taste of Argyll on hand to cater for hungry appetites during and after the parade. If that's not enough to fill you up, visit one of the numerous pubs, restaurants or takeaways. The reindeer will be in Station Square for about an hour after the parade before returning to the Cairngorm mountains. They have a busy schedule this year and will be recharging their batteries in preparation for their nightshift on December 25!



Something different this **CHRISTMAS**
Variety of bespoke pieces.
Items for sale OWF distillery 16th November
RONI'S CHAINSAW ART Kilmore, Oban
Find us on Facebook or call 01631 770206 / 07748 414945

The Ideal Gift
Scottish Calendars 2020

For the ideal gift visit
www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

Come in from the cold this Winter Festival and enjoy freshly cooked & super tasty food

Oban FISH & CHIP SHOP

116 George Street, Oban
Tel: 01631 567000

MARKIE DANS BAR PRESENTS

OPEN UNTIL 2am EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT

Start the Weekend... **FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY**

QUIZ NITE EVERY SUNDAY - 9:30pm WIN A £20 BAR VOUCHER
Watch out for accumulator £100 cash prize!

DECEMBER

Friday 6th Saturday 7th	Creel Tweed
Friday 13th Saturday 14th	A'Hooligan Jono
Friday 20th Saturday 21st	Gregor Coleman Ceol An Aire
Wednesday 25th Thursday 26th	Disco with Stevo Chunks
Friday 27th Saturday 28th Sunday 29th	Tritones Crackin' Craic Quiz Night
Tuesday 31st Wednesday 1st	Crooked Reel Crooked Reel (afternoon) Buddha and the Band (evening)

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY New Year

sky SPORTS www.markiedans.co.uk

MARKIE DANS VICTORIA CRESCENT CORRAN ESPLANADE OBAN PA34 5PN TEL: 01631 564448

OUTSIDE EDGE
There is so much!

Tel: 01631 566617
6 MacGregor Court, Oban

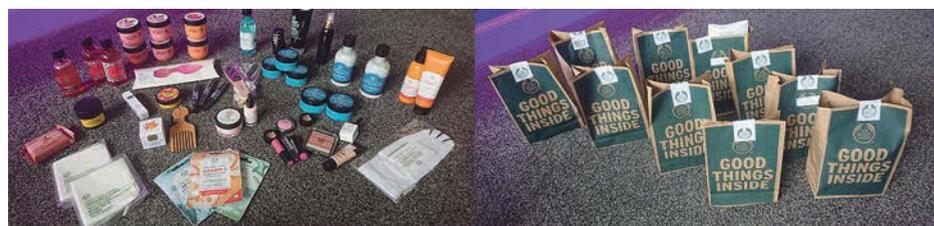
Web: www.outsideedgeoban.com
Email: outside.edge@btconnect.com

played and, this being Lochaber, you can expect to hear some incredible talent.

On display at the centre will also be the results of the Lochaber Times-sponsored competition for primary school children. P1-3 classes had a picture of Rudolph to colour in and the P4-7 had a word search to tackle. For mums and dads and older folk there is the famous Rotary Club Christmas raffle.

The Lochaber Rotarians run this with the view that there should not be lots of smaller prizes but fewer, more luxurious treats to win.

This year there is a selection of six fine malt whiskies, a weekend for two at a Strathmore Hotel Group destination of choice, a Marks and Spencer hamper and a Nevis Bridge Woollen Mill hamper and a voucher for the Crannog Restaurant.

HAVE SOME FUN AND TREAT YOURSELF WITH THE BODYSHOP@HOME THIS XMAS!
MENTION THIS AD TO **SAVE 25% OFF YOUR ORDER** WHEN YOU HOST A PARTY

Great deals, gifts, a massive range of products, male and female ranges, and bundle offers.
FREE DELIVERIES in Lochaber

OUR CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE IS OUT NOW!
CONTACT ME TODAY TO BOOK YOUR PARTY

Susan MacMillan
Bodyshop @Home Consultant • Facebook : NATURAL GLOW Contact: 07500914692

Treat yourself to Scottish Field this Christmas

SPREAD THE COST AND PAY JUST £10.69 QUARTERLY plus receive a FREE Scottish Field mini calendar worth £7.99



To enjoy Scottish Field magazine all year round *Simply...*

Call 01778 392014 and quote **CHRISTMAS FOR YOU** or go online and enter <http://bit.ly/35mzcRC> to purchase.

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Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2020 range visit:
www.scottishcalendars.co.uk
* additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

ORDER ONLINE at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk or call us on **01778 392014**



SHOP LOCAL

We all know one of them: the person for whom we find it impossible to buy a gift. If you are lucky, you just know one. Do not worry, help is at hand with Love Oban Vouchers. This highly popular gift voucher is unique to Oban. They were launched in 2013 by Oban Business Improvement District to encourage spending in local shops, restaurants and businesses. Their popularity has soared, growing year-on-year and this year is no exception with latest sales figures showing a 30 per cent increase on last year. Buy these vouchers and you give the key to a gift that someone wants, and they do not have to travel far to use them. By using the Love Oban vouchers, you know that money spent stays within the Oban business community and local economy. Last year the sale of vouchers broke all previous records and it looks like being the same again this year.

You can use these vouchers in more than 70 businesses within Oban. You can use them to dine out, buy goods, enjoy an evening's entertainment – you name it. They last for 12 months so people can enjoy mulling over what they are going to buy now or use them later.



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CARDS FROM AROUND
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OBAN & LOCAL GIFTS

BEAUTIFUL LOCAL GIFTS FROM MY PHOTOGRAPHS: CALENDAR, DIARY, ADDRESS BOOK CHRISTMAS & GREETINGS CARDS, MUG & COASTERS, KEYRINGS, PRINTS, CANVASES ETC.

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OBANGIFTS/



THE SPORTS SHOP

4 MacGregor Court, Oban, PA34 4DJ TEL: 01631 562050 thesportshop-oban@btconnect.com

LOVE OBAN SHOP LOCAL

GET 10% OFF WITH THIS VOUCHER
CUT OUT VOUCHER OR PHOTOGRAPH
AND SHOW IN THE SHOP

Voucher expires 15th December 2019
(not valid with any other offer)

THE SPORTS SHOP

Whatever your sport we have a great gift for you

- Clothing
- Equipment
- Footwear

Ladies, Mens, Boys, Girls

Shop local and have a great Christmas

4 MACGREGOR COURT
TEL: 01631 562050





OBAN BAY GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

NEW CONTEMPORARY GIFTS AND JEWELLERY NOW IN STOCK FOR CHRISTMAS

OBAN BAY GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS - A SMALL FAMILY-OWNED GIFT SHOP IN OBAN, STOCKING A BLEND OF NAUTICAL AND SCOTTISH THEMED GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS.

OBAN BAY GIFTS,
76 GEORGE STREET,
OBAN, PA34 5NN




Oban Business Imp

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They can be bought from BID4Oban's office on Stevenson Street, Oban Phoenix Cinema, Alba Art Shop, Button Nose Boutique, Oban Sports Shop and Etive Restaurant. The vouchers are available in £10 and £20 varieties up to any amount. For more details visit www.bid4oban.co.uk to find out which businesses accept them.

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To do this you need to be lovely and warm and the best way to do that is with a lovely and warm home.

So make sure that log burner is roaring, the chimney is swept, the logs are piled high both indoors and out, because who wants to go out to the wood pile in the middle of a rain storm.

Cosy for Christmas

Over the years Backwoodsman has been lucky enough to be involved in some amazing projects. We have installed stoves in castles, country estates, converted churches, cafes, cabins and caravans; visitor centres, hotels, youth hostels, bothies, and boats. We have stoves from Campbeltown to Kilchoan and on just about every habitable island in the area!

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WINTER

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But all this hard work is wasted if you are not on top of all your insulation and keeping that heat in the house. So make sure that yours is up to scratch and don't forget there are grants available in certain circumstances.

And remember some lovely scented candles from a local craft fair or gift shop to make the setting complete.

WRAP UP AND KEEP WARM OUTSIDE THIS CHRISTMAS

The great Scottish philosopher Sir Billy Connolly has it right: 'There is no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes'.

If you are out and about this Christmas make sure you are wrapped up warm and dry.

Christmas gifts have a tradition of including clothing; especially little 'finishing touches' like socks, hats, gloves and scarves and we have a legion of shops and crafters ready to supply them. We truly are spoilt for choice.

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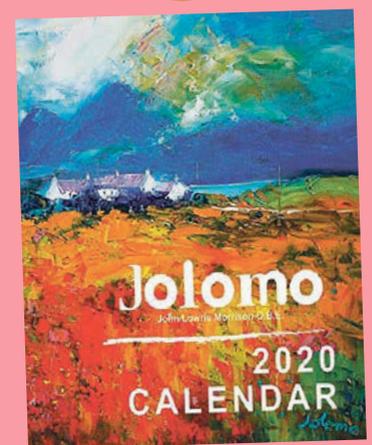


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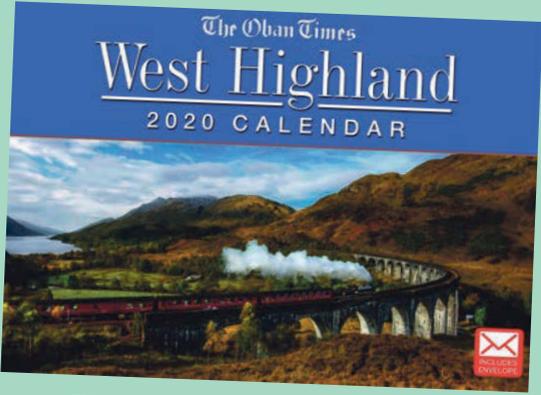
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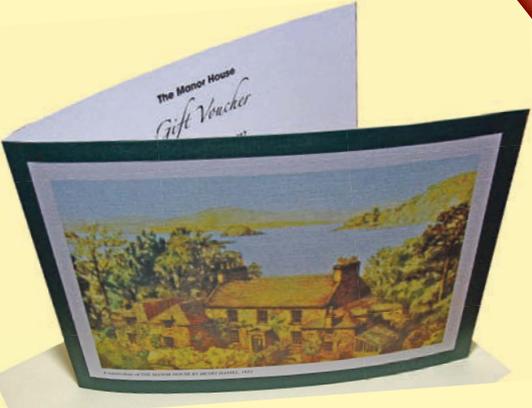


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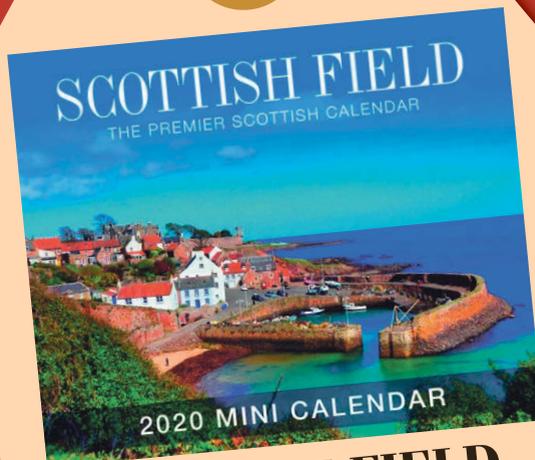
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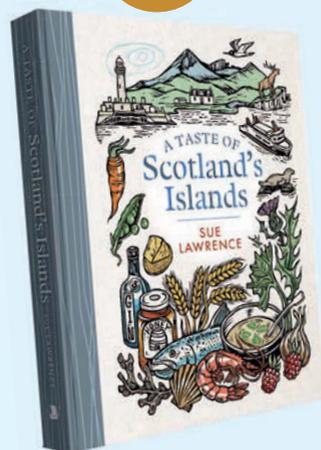
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AT YOUR SERVICE

Everyone needs a little bit of extra help at Christmas time – and not just for emergencies.

Especially when you are getting the house ready!

A very wise person once said that there are two types of family Christmases; the ones where the carpets are shampooed before the guests arrive and the other when you have them cleaned afterwards.

If you have tiny kids coming to stay, or have someone so clumsy that all they have to do is look at bowl of trifle and it falls on the carpet, just chill and get the experts in afterwards to do the cleaning up. The same rules apply for sticky fingers, walls and decorating.

But when it comes to sitting in front of a log burner, make sure that the chimney is swept in plenty of time and ready for lots of extra work while people are home all day. Come to think of it make sure the log store is topped up – and the gas or oil tanks too, while you are at it.

We have always been told to post early for Christmas but also remember to book early!



Appointments in the most convenient timeslots at the hairdressers, salon and barbers get booked up early.

So do taxis and mini-buses, and if you are travelling away for Christmas, make sure that the car is in tiptop condition with the service booked if necessary and the tyre fitter, if new ones are needed.

And also four-legged friends who need to stay at the catteries, kennels or the care of their dog walkers – or even someone coming in to check on the aquarium while you are away!

If you are looking for some help with your parties, get those orders in as soon as possible at bakers and caterers and the rental for glasses.

Then when the holiday time comes you aren't doing any last minute running around and can relax.

And one last thing . . . you did remember to get that dress or suit you are going to wear dry cleaned, didn't you?

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Luing artist aims to inspire with 100-day project

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A lot can happen in 100 days on Luing – island artist Anja Lamont is proof of that.

After more than four decades living on the island, Luing is still working its magic on the former Open University tutor and biologist, who is one of a growing number of people from all walks of life across the world who have committed themselves to being creative every day for 100 days.

At the weekend, Anja showcased the entire 100 works of art she has created as part of the challenge.

The exhibition at the weekend at Cullipool Village Hall was a joint venture with fellow islander and wildlife



artist Sarah Ferguson. Anya is hoping her 100-day collection will now inspire and motivate other people

to take up the challenge. From tiny paintings to prints, making cards, linocuts and woodcuts – it has been a pro-

ductive and rewarding 100 days for her and if it encourages others to make a start on the creative projects they

Luing artists Anja Lamont and Sarah Ferguson at their exhibition at the weekend.

have always thought about doing but never got round to then it will have been time doubly well-spent, she says.

Anja said: 'On Luing it's the landscape that's my main thing. I'm a keen sketchbook user, I'm always painting – I'll use anything I have to hand – pencils, charcoal, oils, acrylics.'

Although not art school-trained, it was as a biologist that Anja's drawing skills were finely honed. 'That was my entry into the world of art!' she said.

'I'm hoping by showing my 100dayproject at the

exhibition, others might decide to go off and have a go at something themselves. It's the teacher in me!

Before starting the project, rules had to be set. Anja's rule was to produce something every day that would be 8ins square for 100 days straight.

'It helps to have a rule, it's something to stick to but the whole idea is to play and have fun. The possibilities are endless. It's a great thing to do if anyone's in a rut or just needs to let go a bit. You can do anything but you need to keep a log of it somehow. For me, choosing art was easy but it could be a piece of writing – it can be anything you want and will enjoy,' added Anja.

Donations from the weekend's exhibition were in aid of Cullipool Village Hall.



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Ashton Parker and Caitlin Jones from Ballet West

More success for Ballet West students

Two Ballet West students were celebrating success recently after degree student Ashton Parker won the Choreographic Medal and Caitlin Jones was a finalist at the prestigious Genee International Ballet Competition held in Toronto, Canada.

Both students are studying on the BA (Hons) programme at Ballet West and will appear in the company's upcoming production of Swan Lake touring Scotland in January and February.

The company will perform at the Corran Halls in Oban on January 25.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

Big time of year for Glasgow Skye

The Glasgow Skye Association will this Saturday (November 9) host its annual post-Mòd children's cèilidh where all children are welcome to perform songs, play instruments, or recite poetry.

It is a fantastic opportunity for children to perform in a non-competitive situation and (less than a month after the Mòd) remind them that music is not all about what marks you receive in competitions.

There will be tea, coffee, juice and nibbles at the cèilidh which is held in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm.

It has been a big week for the association, which announced the line-up of its biggest event of the year – the annual gathering concert and dance.

This year, breaking with tradition in order to avoid clashing with the Vatersay Boys' famous cèilidh in the Barrowlands on the Friday



night, the event will be held on Saturday December 7 and, as usual, will take place in the Glasgow University Union.

The guest of honour at the gathering is David Ross; and singers for the concert are: Wilma Kennedy, Rachel Walker, James Graham, and Arthur Cormack. The association piper, John A Gillies, will play, as will instrumentalist Robert Nairn, on accordion, and accompanist, Alan Kitchen.

The Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band will

also perform led by pipe major Ewan Henderson.

Tickets for the concert are £10 (or £8 for students) and it begins at 7.30pm.

After the concert, at approximately 10.30pm, the dance will begin to the music of Robert Nairn and his dance band – a popular choice amongst Glasgow Skye regulars, I'm sure, not least because of his appearances each year at the Mòd and the PanCeltic festival in Ireland – otherwise known as the Mòd abroad!

Beinn Lee and the GUU wait in anticipation for the crowds arriving before last weekend's Lewis and Harris. Rest assured the place was packed by the end of the night.

The dance will go on until 2am and tickets are £10.

Successful gathering

It is on nights like last Friday (when I was travelling back from a Tide Lines gig in Dundee with the prospect of our show in the Barrowlands the following night making me nervous!) that I am always grateful for social media. The Lewis and Harris Association's Annual Gathering, which I was disappointed to miss, was in full swing but, thankfully, some kind soul had gone live on Facebook for one or two songs, so I was able to see James Graham, Hannah Knight, Alastair MacArthur, and Margaret MacLeod

(Mairead Na h-Òganaich) perform from the comfort of the Tide Lines van!

I was even able to catch a bit of the dance as Beinn Lee rang out round the GUU.

It came over on social media as a cracking night and, by all accounts, it was exactly that.

Clydebank Cèilidh

The Clydebank Highlanders' Association is hosting a cèilidh this Friday November 8 at 7.30pm. The venue, as usual, is the Napier Hall, 312 Dumbarton Rd, Old Kilpatrick, Glasgow G60 5LW.

Paisley Cèilidh

The Paisley Highlanders Association is having a cèilidh this Saturday (November 9) in Elderslie Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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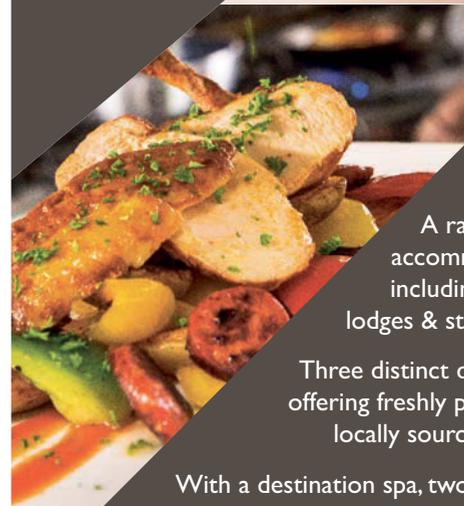


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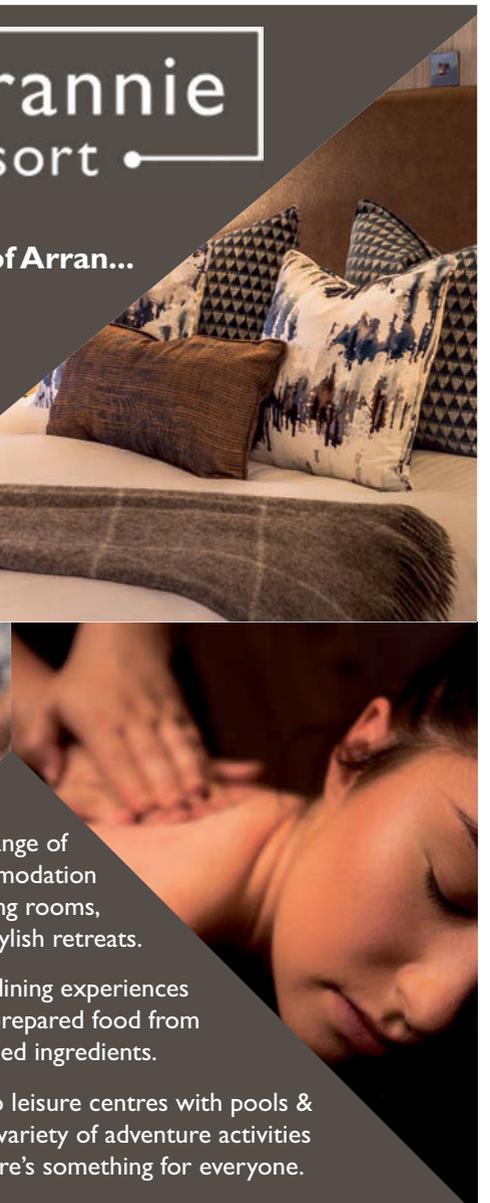
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Bucket list for little ones proves to be a huge hit with Kilninver family

The arrival of this book could not have come at a better time – just at the start of the October school holidays, writes Iain Gatward.

Starting with a list of 500 'adventures', Scottish brothers Ollie and Harry Ferguson set out to live life to its fullest, initially sharing their escapades through their Facebook page. The days are just packed, and now through this hard-backed book.

Adventures

Ollie and Harry's *Marvellous Adventures* provided the perfect opportunity to help occupy a few days of the holidays, as well as creating lots of laughs and have some fun with the kids.

Overall, we loved this book as a family and had great fun trying to recreate some of the adventures suggested. We went through it with our kids and let them pick what they wanted to do at the beginning of the holidays, then did our best to keep up



The Gatward family had a great time over the October break recreating some of the adventures in the book.

with their enthusiasm.

A definite highlight was the Megapault and hot chocolate on the stove outdoors.

The next project is the giant paper plane – once we get our hands on some big cardboard boxes. In fact, the megapault is still going strong and has been

a source of fun for anyone who has visited the house in recent weeks, firing crab apples into the field – thank goodness for a bumper crop!

Our only slight issue with the book is that some of the activities perhaps have a higher cost than similar books we've had in the past. Things like underwater

cameras and the logistics/cost of sending a camera into space were a bit beyond what we could manage for a half term break!

Other than that, though, it is a great book with plenty of entertaining suggestions and loads of scope to adapt to materials/opportunities more suitable to your settings. It also covers issues around safety very well and is written in a very family-friendly style.

Christmas

So, our family would certainly recommend the book and we look forward to working our way through the things we didn't get around to in the holidays – never a dull moment and it would definitely make a great Christmas gift for friends and family.

Ollie and Harry's *Marvellous Adventures* by Ollie and Harry Ferguson is published by WW Norton and is available from all good bookshops.

Countdown begins for Big Quiz Night in Oban

Organisers have started the countdown for this year's Big Quiz in the Corran Halls on Saturday November 16, where teams from around the country will all take part in the biggest nationwide quiz ever.

Last year communities filled the halls to take part in the biggest multi-venue, nationwide fundraiser, with friends, families, church and businesses all helping to make the event a huge success, raising £1,500 for Tearfund, which helps some of the world's poorest people.

This year, as well as the main quiz, there will also be a table-top sale of homebaking and tablet, plus a mini auction of items kindly donated by businesses and individuals.

Organisers would also love to hear from anyone able to make a donation to cover the cost of hall hire and equipment, or provide prizes for quiz winners.

Mary Black, who is again organising the event, said: 'We are very much looking forward to this year's event after the wonderful support we received last year. We had 156 people taking part, with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves.'

Tables will seat up to eight quizzers, and teas, coffee and cake will be served at the event.

The event starts at 7pm and tickets, priced £5, are available from the Corran Halls on 01631 567333.



Organisers are still looking for donations to help with The Big Quiz Night fundraiser.

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DIARDAOIN 7th An t-Samhain THURSDAY 7th November

17:00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19:00 Gaisgich na Stoirme/ Storm Heroes (rpt)
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là – News
20:30 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa/European Current Affairs
21:00 Rose Reilly (rpt)
22:25 An Sgrudaire (rpt)
22:30 Luinean Lannsaireachd (rpt)
23:25 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (Highlights)
23:30 Mach a Seo (rpt)

DIHAOINE 8 An t-Samhain FRIDAY 8th An t-Samhain

17:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming
18:35 Machair (rpt)
19:00 An Là – News
19:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19:30 Cearcall (rpt)
20:00 Port (rpt)
20:30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beo S6 (rpt)
21:00 Na Worlds 2019 (rpt)
22:40 Trapped S2 (rpt)
23:30 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan (highlights) (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 9 An t-Samhain SATURDAY 9th November

16:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming
17:45 An Là – News
18:00 ÙR/NEW: Scottish Premiership – St Johnstone v Hibernian
20:00 Machair (rpt)
20:25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20:30 Fuine S6 (rpt)
21:00 ÙR/NEW Na Worlds 2019
22:40 An Sgrudaire (rpt)

23:00 Scottish Premiership – St Johnstone v Hibernian (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 10th An t-Samhain SUNDAY 10th November

16:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's Programming
18:15 An Là – News
18:30 Seachd Là – News Review
19:30 ÙR/NEW: Alleluia! (rpt)
20:00 Eorpa/European Current Affairs (rpt)
20:30 Gaisgich Oga an Darna Cogaidh (rpt)
20:55 Binneas – Na Trads – Adam Sutherland (rpt)
21:00 Truinsearan ar Sinnsrean (rpt)
19:30 Piper Alpha: An Sgail (rpt)
23:00 Trapped S2
23:50 Dhan Uisge

DILUAIN 11th An t-Samhain MONDAY 11th November

17:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
19:00 An Lot (the croft) (rpt)
19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)

19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là – News
20:30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21:00 Trusadh S11 – Laithean Sgoile – An Rum Mor (Schooldays - The big room)(rpt)
22:00 TradFest (rpt)
22:30 Hamish (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 12th An t-Samhain TUESDAY 12th November

17:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
19:00 Calanais – Full Circle (rpt)
19:30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là – News

20:30 ÙR/NEW: Gaisgich Oga an Darna Cogaidh
20:55 Binneas – Na Trads – Robyn Stapleton (rpt)
21:00 ÙR/NEW: Na Gleidheadairean (The Animal Keepers)
22:00 Trusadh S11 – Laithean Sgoile – An Rum Mor (Schooldays - The big room)
23:00 Port (rpt)
23:30 Alleluia! (rpt)

DICIADAIN 13th An t-Samhain WEDNESDAY 13th November

17:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
19:00 An Lot (rpt)
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là – News
20:30 Cuimhneachan/Remembrance(rpt)
21:00 ÙR/NEW: Opry le Daniel
22:00 Mach a Seo (rpt)
22:30 Dhan Uisge(rpt)
22:35 Rose Reilly(rpt)

DIARDAOIN 14th An t-Samhain THURSDAY 14th November

17:00 Programan Chloinne – Children's programming
19:00 Calanais – Full Circle(rpt)
19:30 Speaking Our Language (rpt)
19:55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20:00 An Là – News
20:30 ÙR/NEW: Eorpa/European Current Affairs
21:00 Leabhraichean-latha a' Chogaidh Mhoir/Great War Diaries (rpt)
22:00 ÙR/NEW: An Sgrudaire
22:15 Luinean Lannsaireachd/Surgey Ships (rpt)
23:00 Breabach@Blas (rpt)
23:30 Mach a Seo (rpt)



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Festival anno coastal conne

Celtic Connections will celebrate Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters with a full day of special events all anchored to the maritime traditions that have shaped the country's history.

Coastal Connections, a one-off festival within a festival, will take place in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on January 18, offering single-ticket access to a packed programme of ocean-themed music, talks, film, storytelling, exhibitions and workshops.

Funded through EventScotland's International Programme supporting Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020, Coastal Connections will present musicians from more than 20 islands, coasts and peninsulas, including Tìree-based Skerryvore, Oban-founded Capercaillie, Hebridean super-group Daimh, North Uist-born Julie Fowles, Gness from Shetland, Orkney roots group Fara, Fiddler Gillian Frame from Arran, and Ceol Nan Eilean from Benbecula. Cape Breton neighbours Anita MacDonald and Ben Miller appear, along with projects by Feis Rois,

Lochaber-based Ingrid Henderson and award-winning duo Mairearad and Anna from The Black Isle/Wester Ross.

In keeping with the festival's strong commitment to roots music from and inspired by the edge of the Atlantic, the event will celebrate the unique heritage and diverse culture of the coasts and waters of Scotland.

Given the rich seam of folklore that runs along the shorelines, myths, legends and storytelling will be a recurring theme of Coastal Connections and one of the highlights will be the first ever appearance of Vision Mechanics' latest huge outdoor spectacular with support from EventScotland's Year of Coasts and Waters and Creative Scotland. Further details about the Vision Mechanics outdoor spectacular will be revealed at the full Year of Coasts and Waters programme launch in mid-November.

The waters around Scotland and the shore-to-shore journeys made by residents and visitors will be celebrated with a musical contribution from Ferry Tales, a forth-



coming production from the National Theatre of Scotland, with the support of Caledonian MacBrayne and its ferries. Scotland's seas can be treacherous, of course, and Coastal Connections will also present Launch!: an immersive performance combining footage from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's film archive with live music.

Blas will spread festival cheer th

The programme for this year's Blas Festival has been launched hot on the heels of the Royal National Mod.

The programme for the 15th annual festival offers an outstanding line-up of musicians from Scotland and further afield for this year's Gaelic music festival which will take place next month in venues throughout the Highlands.

Blas, which means 'taste' or 'sample', is organised by Fèisean nan Gàidheal in partnership with The Highland Council and will take place from November 22-30, culminating in a variety of events across the Highlands to celebrate St Andrew's Night.

It aims to celebrate Gaelic culture and the thriving Scottish traditional music scene over eight days of



concerts, cèilidhs and workshops in venues across the Highlands and Islands.

In a programme which really does offer something for every member of the family, as well as the 20-plus main concerts and cèilidh, there will also be daytime cèilidhs, a series of song lectures and a special schools programme which will see some of the musicians visit schools for performances and workshops.

Acts at this year's Blas, which takes place at venues from Aviemore to Barra, include the Gary Innes Band, pictured, Tide Line's Robert Robertson and Ross Wilson, Iain Macfarlane and Ingrid Henderson, an outstanding piping night at Inverness Town House and neo-trad trio Project Smok.

As always there will also be special performances from an overseas act. Two of Cape Breton's finest fiddlers and step-dancers, sisters Dawn and Margie Beaton, will be entertaining audiences in Gairloch, Resolis, Ullapool and Roybridge, alongside Gaelic singing trio, Sian, and singer Kathleen MacInnes.

This year will also feature two special partnerships. Blas and Smalls Halls Festival will present shows in Kyleakin and Edinbane, featuring a world-class line up of musicians including Grantown-on-Spey multi-instrumentalist and composer Hamish Napier and BBC Young Folk Award winner, uilleann piper Jarlath Henderson. The Highland capital will host a show by electronic Celtic fusion super group, Niteworks, at Ironworks – a partnership between 432 and Blas.

Fast becoming a Blas tradition, three birthdays will be

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unces special ections day



Julie Fowls will be among the artists performing as part of Coastal Connections on January 18.

drama.' Councillor David McDonald, depute leader of Glasgow City Council and chairman of Glasgow Life, said: 'Coastal Connections adds a new and exciting element to a festival that is already a highlight of Scotland's cultural year.

'I'm particularly pleased that Songs of the Clyde will feature alongside music from the furthest reaches of Scotland's the Highlands and Islands.'

Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland's director of events, said: 'Coastal Connections will be one of the early events to herald the arrival of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 and we are delighted to be supporting it.'

Robbie Drummond, managing director of CalMac Ferries, said: 'Celtic Connections helps brighten up January in Glasgow so what better way to kick off the Year of Coasts and Waters than with an island festival in the city.'

The event, created by award-winning film curator Shona Thomson and sound artist/beatboxer Jason Singh, will draw inspiration from the footage, sounds and stories they discovered within the archive of this 200-year-old organisation. It will also feature a guest performance by singer-songwriter Jenny Sturgeon of acclaimed alt-folk band Salt House.

Celtic Connections creative producer Donald Shaw said: 'Landscape and culture are very closely linked and since Celtic communities have often been island or shore-based, there's a strong maritime element to many Celtic songs and legends.

'Scotland's Year of Coasts And Waters is a great opportunity to explore that rich heritage through music and

throughout Highlands

celebrated in true Highland style, with an impressive array of special musical guests. Gaelic singer, John 'Seonaidh Beag' Macmillan will celebrate his 80th birthday alongside Donaidh Macleod, who turns 90 this year. Celebrating with the Lewis men, at An Lanntair in Stornoway, will be Gaelic singers Kathleen MacInnes and Iain Mackay, Allan Henderson, members of the Lewis Pipe Band and other special guests.

Also celebrating a special 80th birthday will be Barra's Chrissie Macdonald, or Chrissie Denny as she is commonly known, who will be joined by Mary Ann Kennedy, Allan Macdonald, Alasdair Whyte, Còisir Ghàidhlig Bharraigh and The Cèilidh King, Fergie Macdonald, at Barra's Northbay Hall.

Having recently showcased their work in Canada at the Celtic Colours Festival,

Fuaran will take to the stage to showcase the fruits of their recent work. Fuaran, a heritage initiative established by Fèisean nan Gàidheal to encourage a new generation of Gaelic speakers and singers to actively engage in the research and collection of Gaelic songs in their local area, will perform alongside tradition bearer, singer and piper, Rona Lightfoot, and Gaelic singer Margaret Stewart.

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal chief executive, said: 'Blas Festival has become an important event in the calendar for communities across the Highlands and Islands since its inception in 2005. We are delighted to be able to put on Blas Festival this year, once again, to showcase and celebrate our homegrown talent.'

The full programme of events can be found at www.blas-festival.com

Mallaig launches fourth book fest

This weekend will see a 'write' Highland hoolie taking place in Mallaig.

The town's annual book festival takes place under one roof at The West Highland Hotel from tomorrow, Friday November 8, to Sunday, November 10.

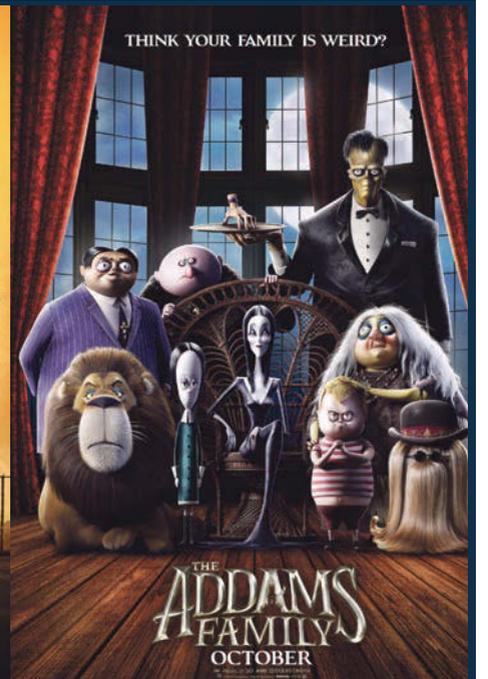
The festival kicks off with a ticketed drinks reception to celebrate Theresa Breslin's recent OBE for services to literature, with crime-writer Alex Gray, John Lister-Kay, Sue Lawrence, Dr Gavin Francis; climber and editor of The Scots Magazine, Robert Wight; Wigtown bookseller Shaun Bythell and Polly Clark all making an appearance.

Oban children's author Alan Windram will be taking part in the expanded school events.

To find out about other events during the weekend and get tickets go to www.a-write-highland-hoolie.com

OBAN PHOENIX CINEMA WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
The Addams Family | PG 12:00/16:00/18:15
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon | U 16:15
Judy | 12A 18:15
Terminator: Dark Fate | 15 20:30
Zombieland: Double Tap | 15 20:45

SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon | U 11:30★/13:45
Maleficent: Mistress of Evil | PG 11:30★
The Addams Family | PG 16:00/18:15
Judy | 12A 19:00
Terminator: Dark Fate | 15 20:30
Zombieland: Double Tap | 15 21:30

SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon | U 12:30/15:15
The Addams Family | PG 13:15/14:45/17:00
Joker | 15 17:15
Terminator: Dark Fate | 15 19:30
Zombieland: Double Tap | 15 20:00

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MIDNIGHT SCREENING

WEDNESDAY 18TH INTO THURSDAY 19TH

DECEMBER

MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
Zombieland: Double Tap | 15 12:00
The Addams Family | PG 17:15
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon | U 17:30
Harry Birrell: Films of Love & War | 12A 19:30
Terminator: Dark Fate | 15 19:30

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
The Addams Family | PG 12:00★/16:15/18:15
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon | U 16:00/18:15
Zombieland: Double Tap | 15 20:15
Terminator: Dark Fate | 15 20:30

WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER
Terminator: Dark Fate | 15 12:00★/19:00
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon | U 17:00
The Addams Family | PG 17:15
42nd Street - The Musical | PG 19:30

THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
Judy | 12A 14:30★
The Addams Family | PG 16:00/18:15
Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon | U 17:15
Zombieland: Double Tap | 15 19:15
Terminator: Dark Fate | 15 20:30

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WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

Oban Men's Shed
Salvation Army Hall. 9:00am - 12:00pm
Slimming World
Salvation Army Hall, Fort William
9:30am, 11:30am, 3:00pm, 5:00pm &
7:00pm
Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Oban Health Walks

Oban Congregational Church
10:00am - 12:00pm

Recovery Cafe

New Hope Kitchen. 12:30pm

Creative social club

Rockfield centre. 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Creative Writing Group

New Hope Kitchen. 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club

Royal Hotel, Oban. 7:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

Mid-Day Matters - Mindfulness

Oban Library. 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Hope Kitchen Music Group

Salvation Army Hall

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Parsley's Cat Cafe

New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

Quiz night! (Cancer research)

Masonic Lodge, Oban. 7:30pm - 10:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

Tritones. Open till 2:00am

SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

Community Cafe

Salvation Army Hall. 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Mid-Day Matters Mindfulness

Oban Library. 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Tide Lines

Corran Halls, Oban. 7:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

Crackin' Craic. Open till 2:00am

SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

Hill Walk

Fort Augustus. 10:30am - 3:30pm

Morning Service - Refreshments

follow

Salvation Army Hall

11:00am - 12:00pm

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

QUIZ NIGHT at 9:30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team

Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

Oban Men's Shed

Salvation Army Hall. 9:00am - 12:00pm

Fellowship Meeting

New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street, Lochgilphead

5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

Martyr's Monday Club Mens

New Hope Kitchen. 7:00pm - 9:00pm

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

Oban Men's Shed

Salvation Army Hall. 9:00am - 12:00pm

Carers Coffee Morning

North Argyll Carers Centre

10:30am - 12:00pm

AA Open Session

Salvation Army Hall. 12:00pm - 2:00pm

At Anon

Salvation Army Hall. 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Martyr's Monday Club Ladies

New Hope Kitchen. 7:00pm - 9:00pm

WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

Oban Men's Shed

Salvation Army Hall. 9:00am - 12:00pm

Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban

9:30am, 11:30am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

Hope Kitchen Beach Clean

Slip opposite Stafford Street

10:30am - 12:00pm

Open Day

Greenshoots Garden. 10:30am - 3:30pm

Knitting Group

New Hope Kitchen. 2:00pm

Weaving technique class

Rockfield centre

7:00pm-9:00pm

Inveraray Accordion & Fiddle Club

Inveraray Inn. 7:30pm

YDance seeks youth dance groups to perform at showcase

YDance (Scottish Youth Dance) – the national dance organisation for children and young people in Scotland – is seeking youth dance groups to perform at the national youth dance performance platform, Destinations 2020.

Destinations is a vibrant showcase of the best youth dance companies from across Scotland. The event, held at MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling on Saturday March 7, brings together national youth dance talent in an exciting evening of diverse performances, providing groups with dancers aged 12-21 the opportunity to showcase their own creative piece of work.

A number of groups will be selected to perform alongside other companies from across the country, including the National Youth Dance Company of Scotland.

Youth dance groups from anywhere in Scotland are invited to apply.

Groups must not include more than 15 dancers, and all dancers must be aged 12 to



Performers at Destinations 2019. Photograph: Paul Watt Photography/YDance.

21 (dancers with disabilities aged up to 25 can apply).

The dance piece must be between two and seven minutes long and all groups must submit footage of their piece when they apply.

The selection panel will watch all submitted footage and select dance pieces to create a programme that reflects the diversity of dance styles practiced across Scotland, demonstrates excellence in performance, and showcases engaging

and exciting choreography. YDance has also partnered with industry body One Dance UK to offer four groups from Scotland the chance to perform at U.Dance 2020 in Glasgow in July. Selection of the four Scottish groups will be made at Destinations.

Any group which would like to apply should visit www.ydance.org for more information.

The deadline for applications is Sunday January 19, 2020.

Events may charge. Please visit www.obanwhatson.co.uk for more details. To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

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Published on 12th December

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John Smith, Oban

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Three Highland publishers shortlisted for Scotland's national book awards

Three publishers based in Argyll and the Highlands have been shortlisted for The Saltire Society's Emerging Publisher of the Year Award.

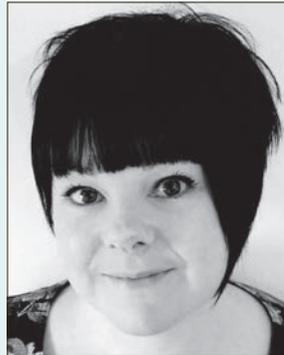
Alan Windram, Little Door Books, Oban; Anne Glennie, Cranachan, Lewis, and Kay Farrell, Sandstone Press, Inverness, are among six publishers shortlisted for the coveted prize.

Pauline Cuchet and Jamie Norman, Canongate Books, and Richard Wainman, Floris Books are also in the running for the award.

Three Gaelic books have made the shortlist - Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig (Five Leaves of the Shamrock) by Ruairidh MacIlleathain (CLÀR) in the fiction category and CLÀR stablemate Seòl Mo Bheatha (My Life Journey) by Dòmhnall Eachann Meek in the non-fiction category and Ceum air Cheum by Christopher Whyte (Acair), a collection in both English and Gaelic in the poetry category.

Widely regarded as Scotland's national book awards, the annual Saltire Literary Awards recognise work across six literary categories (fiction, non-fiction, research, history, poetry and first book) and two publishing categories (publisher and emerging publisher).

An additional award, The Calum MacDonald



Anne Glennie, Cranachan; Alan Windram, Little Door Books and Kay Farrell, Sandstone Press are all vying for the Saltire Society's emerging publisher award.



Memorial Award for the publisher of an outstanding example of pamphlet poetry published during the previous year, is presented in partnership with the Scottish Poetry Library.

This year, for the first time, the Saltire Society will be awarding a prize for Scottish book cover and a special award for lifetime achievement.

The winners of all 11 prizes, and the Saltire Book of the Year, will be announced at a ceremony in Edinburgh on Saturday November 30.

Sarah Mason, programme director at the Saltire Society, said: 'We are proud of the fact that the Saltire Literary Awards shortlists celebrate the diversity, quality and richness of books to come from Scotland over the past year.'

'The Saltire Literary

Awards have a proud history of recognising excellence and bringing this to wider attention and we congratulate the writers and publishers who have been shortlisted this year.

'With the introduction of the book cover award and the lifetime achievement award we believe Scotland's national book awards truly celebrate Scotland's literary landscape.'

'We look forward to welcoming our shortlistees and winners on St Andrew's Day at our largest awards ceremony ever.'

The Saltire Literary Awards are supported by Creative Scotland.

Mairi Kidd, Creative Scotland's head of literature, languages and publishing, said: 'From Melanie Reid, Kate Clanchy and Damian Barr to Lucy Ellman, Polly



Clark and Kerry Hudson, the 2019 Saltire Literary Awards shortlists again demonstrate the wealth of established writing talent in Scotland across all genres and the Saltire Society's ongoing commitment to uncovering the major voices of the future.

'The new awards for cover design and poetry pamphlets will be welcomed by Scotland's industrious publishers and the lifetime achievement award offers a great opportunity to mark the body of work of a very significant writer.'

The winners of each category will receive a bespoke award created by Inverness based-artist Simon Baker of Evergreen Studios.

Winners will be announced at a ceremony at the National Museum of Scotland on Saturday November 30.

Inveraray fiddle club to welcome Kilberry musician

The new season of the Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club got under way last month at the Inveraray Inn.

Chairman Niall Iain MacLean welcomed everyone to an almost-full house.

Supporting players were Fyne Folk, with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard

with a nice selection of pipe marches. Also playing was young Calum MacDonald on accordion with a lively set of jigs and some well-known, sing-a-long Gaelic waltzes. Jake on 'moothie' and Agnes on keyboard played some fine toe-tapping pipe marches.

A quartet of fiddlers and a guitarist from the Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop, who were com-

peting at the Royal National Mod in Glasgow, came along as a rehearsal and delighted the audience with their chosen piece. This was followed by a solo from one of the fiddlers, Alison Diamond, accompanied by John Kelly on guitar.

Guest artists were accordion virtuoso Gordon Pattullo, with Malcolm Ross on drums. They did a couple of

spots with some 20 sets in all, including many of Gordon's favourite tunes, and some cracking west coast pipe marches and waltzes - and all very sympathetically accompanied by Malcolm.

Niall Iain thanked all the artistes for such a great start to the new season. Next week Kilberry man, Iain MacPhail and his Scottish dance band make a welcome return.

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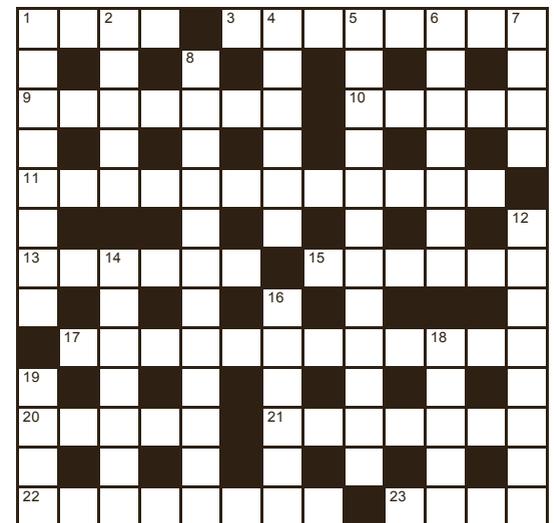
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MONDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2
TUESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 Breakfast show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday morning, 13.00 Macky on Fm, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating. 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00



Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.
FRIDAY: 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
SATURDAY: 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

Crossword



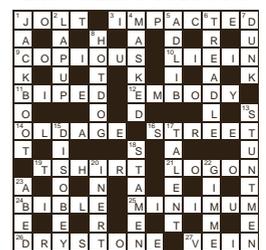
Across

- 1 Without purpose (4)
- 3 Defence practice (8)
- 9 Mechanical printing term (5-2)
- 10 Pace (5)
- 11 Served with jam on a scone (7,5)
- 13 Smoke out (6)
- 15 Field of vision? (6)
- 17 A word with ten segments (12)
- 20 A shorter warship (5)
- 21 Vibrating effect (7)
- 22 One of public office (8)
- 23 Work done in the cutting room (4)

Down

- 1 Wedged in (8)
- 2 Loop used to capture (5)
- 4 Hold back (6)
- 5 Fast (3-9)
- 6 Set of kettledrums (7)
- 7 Once this is heard before a time in a nursery rhyme (4)
- 8 Latest writings of a religious book (3,9)
- 12 Intimidate (5,3)
- 14 American snack (7)
- 16 Ethereal (6)
- 18 Dwell on offspring! (5)
- 19 Sting operation (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



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Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club
Inveraray Inn
Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm
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Around the markets

United Auctions, Oban, Tuesday October 29: sold 273 calves and 131 breeding cattle. Sixty-nine bullock calves sold to £590 for a 340kg LIMx from Stillaig Farm to average £438.33 (+£67.35) and to 236p/kg for 2, 178kg LIMx from 6 Blaich to average 179.24p/kg (+15p). Two hundred and four heifer calves sold to £840 for three, 278kg SIMx from Saulmore Farm to average £524.49 (-£2.46) and to 328p/kg for 2, SIMx from Scammadale Farm, to average 210.98p/kg (nc). Bulling heifers sold to £1,120 for a BRBx from South Achinduin. In-calf heifers sold to £1,800 for a SIMx from Mrs I MacColl, Mid Farm, Lismore. In-calf cows sold to £1,350 from Drumaglea, Tiree and heifers with calves at foot sold to £1,020 for a LIMx from Ellary Farms. Overall, quality bred stock sold well and to a strong force of buyers from across the country.

LEADING PRICES PER HEAD:

HEIFER CALVES (204): AAx - £630, £520, £500(2), Lochnell Farm. BSHx - £640(3), £620(3), Castles Estate; £610(2), Keilbeg, BRBx - £640, Lochnell Farm. CHARx - £735(3), Lochnell Farm.

HIGH: £450(4), Tiretigan. LIMx - £550, Muckairn; £510, Stillaig; £500(2), 6 Blaich; £500, Stillaig.

LUING: £740(2), £720(2), Clachan Farm; £680, Cliad Farm, Coll; £610(2), Airds Bay Farm; £600(2), Clachan Farms. SALx - £450, Langel. SIMx - £840(3), Saulmore; £800(2), Cliad, Coll; £760(3), Saulmore; £750(3), Scammadale; £750, Saulmore; £740, Scammadale;

£740, £720(2), Cliad, Coll; £720(2), Scammadale; £710, Ardencaple; £710(3), £700(4) Scammadale; £700(2), Ardencaple. SHx - £700(2), Resipole; £560, Balure of Shian; £560(2), Killundine Estate; £500, Achnacloch.

BULLOCK CALVES (69): AAx - £490, 239 Bruernish, Barra; BSHx - £525(2), Ardsignish. LIMx - £590, Stillaig Farm. LUING: £495(3), Arisaig Farm. SIMx - £430(2), Drimnin Estate. SHx - £470(2), Callachally.

BULLING HEIFERS - BSHx - £800(2), Boreland Farm. BRBx - £1120, £1080, South Achinduin. LUING - £800, Tayvallich Estates. SHx - £1000(2), Balure of Shian. SIMx - £800(2), Tayvallich Estates.

IN-CALF HEIFERS - SHx - £1,600, £1,500, Stroneskar; £1,500, Tiretigan. LIMx - £1,400, £1,300, £1,100, Stroneskar. SIMx - £1,800, £1,500, £1,450, £1,400, Mid Farm.

HEIFERS WITH CALVES: LIMx - £1,020, Ellary Farms; SIMx - £1,000(2), Ellary Farms.

INCALF COWS - SAL - £1,350, £1,120, £1,100(3), £1,020, Drumaglea, Tiree.

LEADING PRICES PER KILO:

HEIFERS - BSHx - 273p, Keilbeg; 250p, Castles Estate; 249p(2), 231p, Keilbeg. LUING - 296p(2), 286p(2), 280p(2), Clachan Farm; 277p(2), Airds Bay Farm. SIMx - 328p(2), 310p, Scammadale Farm; 302p(3), Saulmore Farm; 299p(3), Scammadale Farm; 274p(2), Cliad, Coll; 273p(2), Ardencaple Farm; 272p(3), Scammadale Farm; 270p(2), 268p, Saulmore Farm; 267p(4), Scammadale Farm; 266p(2), Ardencaple Farm; 264p, 262p(3), Saulmore Farm. SHx - 286p(2), Resipole.

BULLOCK CALVES: AAx - 213p, 239 Bruernish, Barra. LIMx - 236p(2), 6 Blaich. 223p(5), Stillaig. LUING - 191p, Drimnin Estate. SIMx - 205p(2), Drimnin Estate.

United Auctions, Tiree, Saturday November 2: sold 647 suckled calves and store cattle and 59 cows.

A good following of mainland buyers ensured all stock sold at favourable levels to what is currently being obtained at principal mainland centres.

Bullocks (383) averaged £700 and sold to £1,090 for a 591kg CHARx from Heylipol Farm and averaged 206.45p/kg selling to 269p/kg for 4 LIMx from Parkhouse.

Heifers (263) averaged £610 and sold to £1,080 for a 575kg CHARx from Braeside and averaged 196.98p/kg selling to 248p/kg for a CHARx from Garaphail.

Cast cows (47) sold to £1,140 for a LIMx from Heylipol Farm. In-calf Heifers (5) sold to £1,280 for a SHx from 6 Barrapol.

LEADING PRICES PER HEAD:

BULLOCKS: AAx - £1020(10), £960(4), Croish; £920, Hillcrest; £890(4), Whitehouse; £850, 6 Barrapol; £850, Hillcrest. BSx - £970, £910, 6 Barrapol. BRBx - £1040, 4 Kilkenneth; £860, £855, Ruaig. BAx - £900, Mainroad.

CHARx - £1090, £1080, £1070, Heylipol Farm; £1070, Braeside; £1060, Heylipol Farm; £1020, £980, 4 Kilkenneth; £980(2), Heylipol Farm; £950, 4 Kilkenneth. LIMx - £1060, Heylipol Farm; £990, Middleton Farm; £950, Heylipol Farm; £930, Parkhouse; £890(4), £880(3), Heylipol Farm; £870, 9 Barrapol. LUING - £800, Garaphail. SALx - £930, £920, Parkhouse; £890, £810(3), Druimasaidh. SIMx - £990, £940, Braeside; £900, 3a Caolis; £890, Ruaig; £880, 9 Barrapol.

HEIFERS: AAx - £1000(2), £900, Croish; £850(6), Whitehouse. BRBx - £920, Braeside; £730, 13 Moss. CHARx - £1080, Braeside; £990(2), £980(2), Heylipol Farm; £965, Braeside; £960, 4 Kilkenneth; £920, Braeside. LIMx - £1060, Parkhouse; £960, Middleton; £910(3), Hillcrest; £900, Ardmay; £890, Ruaig. SALx - £770, Parkhouse; £700(2), 10 Balevullin; £700, 10 Crossapal.

IN-CALF HEIFERS: £1,280(2), £1,020, 6 Barrapol. CAST COWS: AAx - £880, Hillcrest. LIMx - £1,140, Heylipol Farm; £990, Ardmay; £980, Parkhouse; £960, Heylipol Farm; £940, Braeside. SIMx - £1,120, £900, £880, Druimasaidh.

Union hits back at £160m pay plan

Last week the Scottish Government announced its proposal to divide the £160 million award from UK Government into two instalments and use the pot to fill funding gaps in the Less Favoured Areas.

The money is to rectify a 'historic wrong' relating to EU Common Agricultural Policy funding that it failed to pass on to Scotland between 2014-2020.

While the Scottish Government's approach has much in common with the proposal put forward by NFU Scotland's board of directors, the union says there are marked and concerning differences that it must take issue with.

NFU Scotland President Andrew McCornick said: 'We understand that pot will now arrive in two £80 million tranches - the first in March 2020 and second in March 2021. Detail on how the money will be distributed in year one is now emerging.'

'NFU Scotland has made recommendations to Scottish Government on how we believe these hard-won funds can be used to the benefit of all



Scottish farmers and crofters and it appears that some of our recommendations have been adopted and it is clear that others have not. We cannot agree with the Scottish Government's proposition to use any of the £160 million to address the budget shortfall that exists in the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme for 2019 and 2020 scheme years. 'In year one, it appears Scottish Government intends to strip £13 million from the pot to fund an LFASS-type grazing scheme to cover the LFASS shortfall. It is

likely that a further £39 million from year two's £80 million could well be used to fill the holes in the 2020 LFASS budget.

'Using this money, rather than finding that LFASS funding shortfall from usual budgetary sources, dilutes what this funding could have achieved. This funding was derived through pillar one direct support and should be spent through pillar one direct support means.

'We do support using the funds to increase the basic payment scheme rates in Regions One,

Concerns have been raised with Fergus Ewing over how the £160,000 is to be divided up.

Two and Three with extra weighted support to the Region Two and Region Three budgets for more marginal land. We also support top-ups to the coupled beef and sheep schemes.

'However, the weightings to the regional rate top-ups by Scottish Government justifiably support the hills and uplands but do not accurately reflect the hugely valuable contribution of all land in Region One.

'As well as highly productive arable land, most of the Region One land is grassland and more support here would, in turn, have better supported all our vulnerable livestock sectors.

'Unfortunately, the approach Scottish Government intends to take will lower what all three regional payments could have been and that will have a significant impact on all sectors, especially those underpinned by Region One permanent pastures and grassland.'

MSP raises crofters' convergence concerns

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan has raised crofters' concerns regarding the allocation of EU convergence funding directly with Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, Fergus Ewing MSP.

He said: 'Now that the detail has been published, it is very clear that the basis on which the first £80 million is to be distributed remains contentious, particularly the share of money that is going to the best land.'

'While it is welcome that those on the least-favoured land are getting the highest percentage uplifts, these are high percentages of what were in many cases tiny grants. However, there is concern regarding the proportion of funding which is due to go to crofters and those farming in marginal areas.'

'I have spent much of this weekend speaking to the government, and in particular to Fergus Ewing. I have also been in touch with a number of crofters in the islands. I welcome the fact Mr Ewing has been prepared to listen, and I hope he will now be able to respond directly to the concerns which crofters have expressed.'

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PEUGEOT RIFTER WINS MPV OF THE YEAR AT 2019 SCOTTISH CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- PEUGEOT Rifter praised for providing drivers with an affordable vehicle with a practical and comfortable interior at 2019 Scottish Car of the Year Awards
- The 'MPV of the Year' award comes at the end of a successful year for PEUGEOT, with recognition from a range of industry experts with over 25 UK awards across all models in 2019
- Find out more about the PEUGEOT Rifter at: <http://campbeltownmotorcompany.co.uk/>

The PEUGEOT Rifter has received high praise from industry experts once again, taking home the title of 'MPV of the Year' at the 2019 Scottish Car of the Year Awards.

Success in the Scottish Car of the Year Awards is just one of several accolades bestowed upon the PEUGEOT Rifter in 2019. Last month, the PEUGEOT Rifter won the 'Best Medium Family Car' category at the Parkers New Car Awards 2020. The PEUGEOT Rifter also took home the 'SUV of the Year' title in the 2019 Company Car Today CCT100 Awards, 'Best Utility Vehicle' at the Diesel Car & Eco Car Awards 2019, and was named 'Best MPV' at the UK Car of the Year

Awards 2019. In addition to the host of awards picked up by the PEUGEOT Rifter throughout 2019, the UK voted PEUGEOT as the 'Most Dependable Volume Brand' in the annual J.D. Power customer satisfaction survey earlier this year in May.

Judges praised the PEUGEOT Rifter for its practicality and interior features, as well as its affordability.

Launched in 2018, the PEUGEOT Rifter comes with a full range of innovative tech, carrying the award-winning PEUGEOT i-Cockpit®, along with 'Magic Flat' system, which allows drivers to fold down the second row seats with the push of a button to maximise load capacity.

The PEUGEOT Rifter brings design cues from PEUGEOT's award winning SUV range together with the spacious and practical interior to allow drivers to enjoy an active lifestyle. Available in five or seven seat options, the PEUGEOT Rifter boasts between 775 and 4,000 litres according to version, making it one of the most spacious MPVs on the market.

John Murdoch, President of the Association of Scottish Motoring Writers, said: "The Rifter balances a spacious and versatile interior with an affordable entry price and running costs. Available with five or seven seats, and in long and short wheelbases, as well as with a host of efficient



and powerful engines, the Rifter impressed the whole Association of Scottish Motoring Writers test team. With its family-friendly features, affordability and versatility, it made the Rifter the perfect winner of this year's MPV category."

David Peel, Managing Director at PEUGEOT UK, said: "Recognition at the Scottish Car of the Year

Awards is always one of the most sought after industry awards. We are incredibly pleased that the PEUGEOT Rifter has been chosen as 'MPV of the Year' 2019.

"The PEUGEOT Rifter offers motorists a practical model for day to day life, activities and trips away. It is great that the Rifter has received such high praise across the industry this year

as we look to develop our range to provide models to fit all lifestyles."

Winners from all categories will be in with the chance of being named the overall 'Scottish Car of the Year 2019'.

The PEUGEOT Rifter retails from £21,125. To find out more about the PEUGEOT Rifter: Campbeltown Motor Company 01586 552030

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2006, 26t gross 28ft platform body on air suspension, rear lift axle.
Ideal for hay and straw.
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PRESS RELEASE

Spectre of uncertainty continues to haunt construction, says FMB

Construction should not be overlooked by the Government in no-deal Brexit preparations, says the Federation of Master Builders (FMB). This was in response to the construction PMI data published recently, showing that output in April declined at its second-sharpest pace since 2009.

The fall in staffing levels was the sixth in as many months and the strongest since the end of 2010.

Chief executive of the FMB Brian Berry said: 'Following a Hallowe'en Brexit delay, the spectre of uncertainty continues to haunt the construction industry, and this is leading to a sustained decline not seen in more than six years.'

'A Brexit delay, while giving some respite by avoiding a no-deal Brexit, has just led to further uncertainty and stagnation, which is leading to subdued client demand.'

'We know that many homeowners are holding off undertaking home improvement works due to Brexit uncertainty and this is having a knock-on effect on builders' workloads.'

'It is unclear how long clients will hold off waiting for certainty, and invest their money elsewhere.'

Berry added: 'Ahead of the General Election, political parties should provide clear and unambiguous support for business and back this up with pro-enterprise policies. Now is the time for politicians to come up with some radical policies to give a much-needed boost to the UK's construction industry. The new prime minister will also need to give much-needed certainty, from day one, about the future direction of the UK and its relationship with the EU.'

Fort William High Street - Retail/Office space to let

Flexible retail & office space on High Street with shop frontage up to 500 Sq Feet

Email recruit2049@outlook.com for more details.

Flexible office space to let – Oban

Shortly Available **2,500 Sq Feet**

Secure on site car parking for up to 10 cars.

Storage, toilet and kitchen facilities etc.

Lease direct from Landlord. Close to amenities.

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**The Old Schoolhouse,
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- Development Opportunity (Subject to planning)
- Gross Internal Area 2,430 sq.ft
- Site Area approx. 0.3 acres
- Large rear car park
- Outstanding views



Offers in excess of £150,000
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COMMERCIAL SALE OF MACLENNAN MOTORS

ISLE OF TIREE

Unique business opportunity on the Isle of Tiree, Argyll.

Family run business for sale on the lovely Inner Hebridean Island of Tiree.

Located in a prominent position close to the Ferry Terminal in Scarinish which is the principal settlement on the Island and is essentially the focal point for the majority of activity on Tiree.

The sale includes three separate buildings with surrounding land.

Currently run as a licensed garage repair unit, fuel services, with adjacent shop and offices.

The busy Car & Bike Rental side to the business trades all year and benefits principally during the summer months from the significant visitor and Tourist trade.

This sale has come about due to the Retirement of the current owners.

For further information please contact : Catriona MacLennan

Mobile: 07831193636

Email: catriona@macleannanmotors.com

The Haulage and Island Freight side of the business is not included in this sale and will continue under the current Limited Company name.



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D.Carmichael and Sons Ltd is a family run building contractor, situated 17 miles north of Oban.

We have a new full-time, permanent position to fill in our busy office. Experience with book-keeping is essential and knowledge of Kashflow is desirable. Salary to be agreed, based on experience/qualifications. We need someone who is trustworthy, self-motivated with good communication skills. Must hold driving licence.

If you are interested in joining a thriving, well-established business, which provides a reliable and high quality service, then please email CV and references from previous employers to info@dcarmichaelandsons.co.uk.

Applications should be received by noon on Friday 22nd November.

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Advertising Sales Manager

We have a rare and exciting opportunity for the right person to join our team in a senior sales management role.

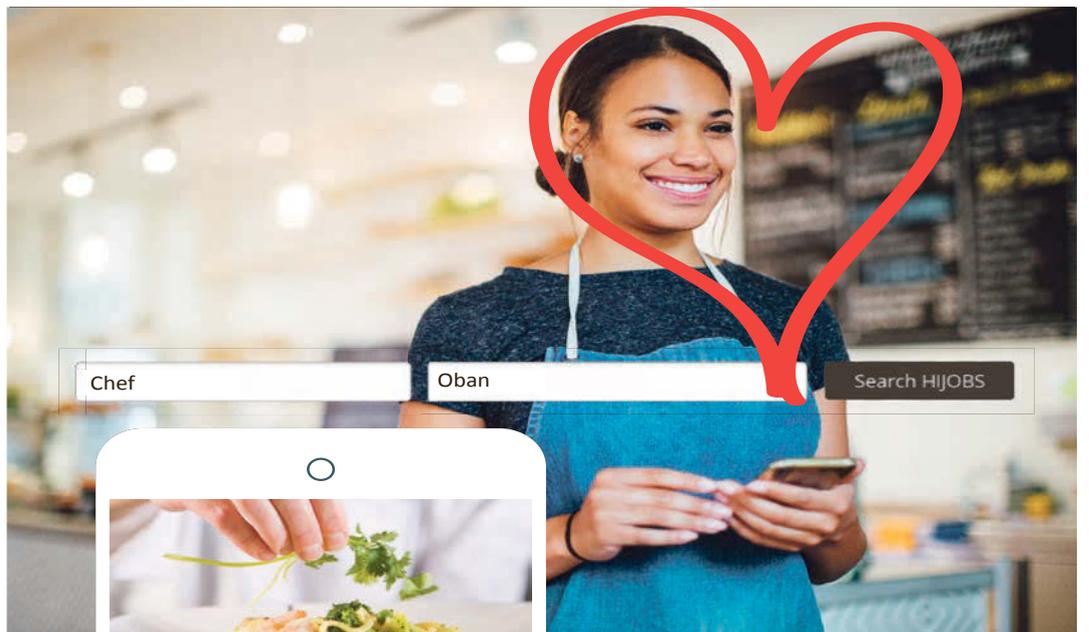
Based in Oban, the successful candidate will report directly to our MD and will be expected to lead our experienced sales team to achieve realistic revenue targets both in print and online. They will also be expected to use their sales experience to deliver their own individual revenue target.

You will be working with highly recognisable and trusted brands including the Oban Times, Scotlands second highest selling weekly newspaper.

The right person for the job will have considerable sales experience, ideally within a media or digital background. They will have a track record of delivering results both from a personal and team perspective. They will be confident, articulate and target driven and above all they will be able to motivate and inspire their team.

In return, we offer an excellent salary, company car (you will require a full driving licence) and the chance to work in one of the most beautiful locations in Scotland.

If this sounds like you and you are up for the challenge send your CV and current salary to Nicky Murphy, nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk.



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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other

charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, PO. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000

www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

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MISSION PORT OFFICER KINTYRE AND OBAN - PART TIME

Are you confident, approachable and empathetic? DO you want a job where you make a difference every day? Can you listen as well as talk, be organised as well as flexible? If this is you then you should take the next step and apply to join the family of the Fishermen's Mission.

We are looking for Port Officer to work in the Kintyre and Oban area. This job is about fishermen and their families. You need to be able to walk alongside people in the good times and the bad. They will need you to offer guidance and answers that will offer practical solutions and make a real difference. This is one of the most rewarding jobs you could ever hope to have.

The Fishermen's Mission is a Christian charity that has been around since 1881. We help active and retired fishermen and their families around the whole of the UK coastline. You could be part of our vital work. We're not caught up in qualifications or even work experience. We are looking for the right person. Someone who can plan out their own day, talk to someone without waiting for an introduction, listen carefully and respond with compassion. Sounds like you? Get in touch.

For further detail and an application pack please go to our website <http://www.fishermensmission.org.uk/get-involved/vacancies>.

Appointment will be subject to satisfactory references.

Registered Charity in England and Wales No.232822 & Scotland No.SC039088

Surveying Opportunities with TSL Contractors Ltd



TSL Contractors is a dynamic, award-winning construction and haulage company with offices in Oban and Mull. Due to the continuing growth of the company, we are looking for two talented, motivated and enthusiastic surveyors to join our busy commercial department at this time of steady expansion. Based in Oban, both posts will require some travel throughout Argyll and Lochaber.

Quantity Surveyor

Working within a small team of surveyors the role will pro-actively support our commercial manager with the management of a varied portfolio of projects from inception through to completion.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Strong technical knowledge and commercial awareness
- A relevant QS qualification
- Previous experience of working in a similar role within the construction industry
- A customer focused approach
- Excellent communication, organisational and negotiation skills
- Superb attention to detail and quality
- The ability to work effectively under pressure

Assistant Surveyor

The role will provide timely support and assistance to our team of surveyors with all aspects of the team's work.

The ideal candidate will:

- Have a relevant QS qualification or be working towards or willing to work towards this
- Have excellent communication and organisational skills
- Be committed to self-development
- Be computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office software in particular, Excel and Word
- Be a team player and also able to work independently
- Have effective time management skills

We offer an inclusive, friendly and supportive working environment, competitive rates of pay, and opportunities for continuing professional development and career progression. Please don't be put off applying if you don't tick all the boxes - we are keen to hear from suitable candidates who can demonstrate potential as well as those who are ready to hit the ground running. Please send your CV with a covering letter to hr@tslcontractors.co.uk

For an informal chat about either post please contact
David Stewart, Commercial Manager, on 01631 569 991

We are committed to promoting diversity and inclusion within our workforce and welcome applications from all sectors of the community.

Etive House CARE HOME

Full time/Part time Care Assistants
Required - £9.10 per hour

Full time/Part time Senior Care Assistants
Required - £9.50 - £10.50 per hour

For more information or an application pack
please contact Megan MacLeod on
01631 720278 or admin@etivehousecare.com

Career opportunities



PROJECT ASSISTANT - Dunbeg Development

We require a motivated Project Assistant for a large project in Oban area. Duties include supporting Surveyors, stock taking, material ordering and general site administration tasks.

Closing date 11 November 2019

For further information please call
01546 602989 or send CV to
jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk.



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Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG
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Cook - £11.36 per hour
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Full and part-time permanent positions.
Good pay and conditions.
Experience not essential as training will be given.
Paid breaks and pension scheme.
Salary increases under review.

For an application form contact manager
Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168
Email info@northargyllhouse.org



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Plant Operators & General Operatives

Corrie Construction Ltd seek applicants for both Plant Operators and General Operative positions. CPCs and CSCS cards and a full Driving Licence are essential.

Apply in writing to: -
sales@corrieconstruction.com
Corrie Construction Ltd, Carn Mor House,
Glen Nevis Business Park PH33 6RX

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2008**

**Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be
published in a local newspaper under regulation 7(2)**

Link Group Ltd, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective development comprising 'Mixed use development comprising: retail (Class 1 - food and non-food); financial, professional and other services (Class 2); food and drink (Class 3); business (Class 4); hotel (Class 7); residential development (Dunbeg Phase 4) (Class 9); non-residential institutions (Class 10); assembly and leisure (Class 11); public house; takeaways; site for community facilities; site for new primary school; new roundabout on A85, roads and parking; ground re-modelling; above ground and below ground infrastructure; open space; and landscaping' at Land to the North of A85 and South of Dunbeg, Argyll.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting Paul Houghton, Director and Head of Planning, DM Hall, The Mill, Bridge of Allan, Stirling, FK9 4JS Telephone: 01786 833800 E-mail: paul.houghton@dmhall.co.uk.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity for public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at Dunbeg Primary School, Dunbeg, Argyll, PA37 1QF on 14th November and 5th December 2019 from 4.15pm until 8pm.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at

DM Hall, The Mill, Bridge of Allan, Stirling, FK9 4JS

Telephone: 01786 833800 E-mail: paul.houghton@dmhall.co.uk

before 19th December 2019.

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.

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Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting Paul Houghton, Director and Head of Planning, DM Hall, The Mill, Bridge of Allan, Stirling, FK9 4JS Telephone: 01786 833800 E-mail: paul.houghton@dmhall.co.uk.

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**CROFTING COMMISSION
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Mansefield J G Limited
4 Port Ellen, Kildaton & Oa
98671
0.4233 ha
Reason – Proposed New Development
Condition – With use and fencing conditions

A Glenn
Whitestone, Saddell & Skipness
100785
0.020 ha
Reason – Proposed development
Condition – With fencing conditions

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Proposed Assignment of a Grazing Share

Mrs M H MacKay is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share pertaining to the croft at Catchean, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon to John Robert Allan, in the Creich & Catchean Common Grazings of, Ionaview, Catchean, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of this advert.

**Argyll and Bute Council
PLANNING**

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 – 13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 – 13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/02224/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land Adjacent To Craigsuir Lane (Plot 4), Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/02227/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land North East Of Carnan, Caoles, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
19/02215/PP	Demolition of outbuildings, erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North East Of Duaig, Lochavich, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
19/02249/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garden shed	Dervaig Motors, Achadh An Droma, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QR
19/02155/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, garage, formation of vehicular access and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North West Of 4 Ruaig, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
19/02268/PP	Installation of metal roof guard rails and PV panels on existing flat roof	Cameron House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4AE
19/01527/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses, installation of 2 sewage treatment plants and formation of vehicular accesses	Land South West Of Dalmara, Kilmora, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02214/LIB	Installation of replacement windows and porch roof	41 Easdale Island, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4TB
19/02154/PP	Temporary use of the former car park for open storage of palletised pen building components and pipes (Class 6)	Former Sealife Centre, Barcardine, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/02017/PP	Siting of 2 storage containers	School Cottage, Upper Kilchattan, Isle Of Colonsay, Argyll And Bute, PA61 7YR

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



**Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES**

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expression of Interest for 3- year contract to operate a passenger ferry link from Craighouse, Isle of Jura to Tayvallich, Knapdale Peninsula. The Isle of Jura Development Trust are seeking a qualified MCA operator to provide a passenger ferry service from Craighouse, Isle of Jura to Tayvallich, Knapdale Peninsula. Minimum service period of 6 months, 6 days per week, 4 trips per day. Applicants must have all necessary MCA certificates and legal licensing documentation as well as safety insurances.

The shortlisted applicants from the EOI will be invited to submit their request for proposal through Tender process. Interested applicants who meet the pre-qualified criteria above may furnish their EOI with all the necessary documents along with a covering letter no later than 3pm on the 30th November 2019. The request for EOI to be sent to the following address; Company Secretary, Isle of Jura Development Trust, Service Point, Craighouse, Isle of Jura, PA60 7XD. Email: secretary@juradevelopment.co.uk

This is not an invitation to tender. Full tendering procedure will be applied to selected firms pre-qualified and found capable of executing the service.

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter

Iain Henderson and Mrs Sandra Mary Henderson are applying to divide the owner-occupied croft at Knochan, Bunessan, Isle of Mull, in the Parish of Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon into 2 new crofts.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of the advert.

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter

Iain Henderson and Mrs Sandra Mary Henderson are applying to divide the owner-occupied croft at 1B Achadafail Bunessan, Isle of Mull, in the Parish of Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon into 2 new crofts.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of the advert.

www.highland.gov.uk



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/04752/FUL	Land 115M SW Of 15 Spean Park Spean Bridge	Erection of house
19/04805/FUL	Land 330M SE Of Birch View Auchindarroch Duror	Construction and operation of a 350kW run of river hydropower scheme. Previously consented, site layout modified to accommodate Forestry Commission's requirements
19/04706/FUL	Land 210M SW Of Ceithir Raithean Morar	6 lodges with reception
19/04789/FUL	Road To Isles Filling Station North Road Fort William	Demolition of existing building and jet wash bays, alterations to canopy, erection of building, bin store, and perimeter wall, installation of 2no. jet wash bays and parking
19/04816/S42	Unit 1 North Road Fort William	Application under section 42 to vary condition 17 of planning permission 16/00247/FUL limiting retail floor space

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk



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Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot**

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (TAYNUILT) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) (NO. 2) ORDER 2019

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A85 Tyndrum – Oban Trunk Road from a point 100 metres or thereby northwest of its junction with the B845 road to Taynuilt Station in a generally southeast ward direction to a point 100 metres or thereby southeast of the said B845 junction, a distance of 200 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the Taynuilt Remembrance Service, will be in operation from 10th November until 11th November 2019. It is anticipated that the restrictions will be in place for approximately 15 minutes at around 12:30 hrs and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES
An alternative route is not required.
A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>
For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

P. REID
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



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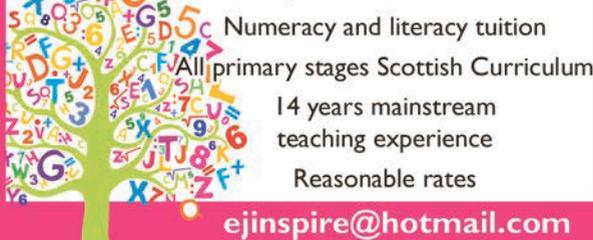
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MARRIAGES

SUTHERLAND - **MACCOLL** - On October 19, 2019 at Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, Lyndsay Violet, daughter of Ronnie and Mary, Appin to Jimmy, son of Robert and Jane, Brora. A lovely day was had by all.

DEATHS

BRODIE - Malcolm (Mackie). Suddenly but peacefully in Forth Valley Royal Hospital on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, Malcom of Tyndrum. Beloved husband of the late Kathleen. Loving and much loved dad to Carole and Allan. Mackie will be sorely missed by all who knew him. He was a great friend to so many. Funeral service will be held on Monday, November 11, 2019 in Killin Parish Church at 11a.m. thereafter to Killin Cemetery, to which all family and friends are warmly invited. Family flowers only donations if desired to Scottish Charity Air Ambulance.

CAMERON - Peacefully at St. Margaret's Hospice, Clydebank on October 31, 2019, Christina Ann (Chrissie) née MacIntyre, formerly of Port na Mine and Kilvaree. Beloved wife of the late Neil, dear mum of Gregor and Angus, loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service at Luss Parish Church on Friday, November 8 at 11.00 a.m., burial thereafter in churchyard.

DAIRON - Sadly at home in Caraglio, Italy on November 2, 2019, in his 73rd year, after a long illness, David Carmichael, formerly of Oban, beloved husband of Ada, dear father to Michael and Jonathan, son of the late Andrew and Mary and brother of James, Lynn, Richard, Robert and the late Andrew. Much loved brother-in-law and uncle. Funeral service took place in Caraglio.

GOOCH - John of Hill House, Onich, died peacefully on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, following a stroke on Sunday in church, surrounded by family and friends who had gathered to celebrate his 90th birthday. The funeral will take place at Nether Lochaber Parish Church on Saturday, November 9 at 12 noon. All welcome. Donations to West Highland Museum.

McNAB - Peacefully at home after a long illness, on October 27, 2019, in his 75th year, George McNab, beloved husband of June, a much loved Dad and Papa. Funeral will take place from Mallaig & Morar Community Centre on Wednesday November 13, thereafter to Beoraid Cemetery, Morar.

SIMERS - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on October 29, 2019, with his family by his side, Willie Simers, in his 73rd year, of Myfanwy, 2 Kilduskland Road, Ardrishaig, beloved husband of Jean, much loved dad of Karen and Claire, adored papa of Jodie, Iain, Jamie, Jack and Emma, and a much respected father-in-law of John and Graeme. Faithful companion to Isla. A good neighbour, work colleague and dear friend to many. Funeral service was held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, on Monday, November 4, 2019, followed by interment at Ach-na-breac Cemetery. Forever in our thoughts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACPHERSON - Tina and the family of the late Fred MacPherson would like to thank all friends and family from Argyll and beyond who have sent cards, flowers and messages of support at this sad time. It was lovely to see so many who were able to make the journey down to Ayr to join us for the funeral service. Special thanks to the Rev Jeff McCormick who kindly conducted a very personalised and appropriate celebration of Fred's life and to Frazer Hare, Funeral Directors, Stranraer

for compassionate and efficient funeral arrangements. In the last few months Fred received a high level of care from medical staff, Carers and Marie Curie nurses to all of whom we are very grateful. The amount of £512 has been donated to Marie Curie Nurses.

MEMORIALS

BLACK - 30th anniversary remembering Joyce, who died November 6, 1989. - Henry.

BLACK - 30th anniversary. Treasured memories of Joyce, dear sister-in-law and aunt. - From Lily and Jim.

CAMERON - In loving memory of a beloved wife and mother, Louie who passed away on November 10, 2000 at Kilmalieu.

Remembering you is easy
We do it every day
But losing you is a heartache
That will never go away.
- Your loving family: Allan, Catherine, Jamie and Claire, Amber, Iona, Katie, Cara and Isla.

CAMERON - In loving memory of Christine, who passed away November 7, 2015. Loving mother to Daniel, Jamie and Lewis. Much loved wife to Ian. Love always.

DUFF - In loving memory of my wife Caroline, who died November 7, 2016. Forever in my heart. - Ian.

DUNCAN - In ever lasting memory of a dearly loved husband, Howard, who died November 12, 2001.

No words, no verse could every say
How much I miss you every day.
- Love always Chrissie x

DUNCAN - Thomas (Spider), 10th anniversary of his death, November 8, 2009. Always in our thoughts.

GRANT - John Duncan (Iain). So many memories of Iain, a much loved brother and uncle. You are in our thoughts every day as another year passes since you left us so sadly on

November 4, 2008. Miss you always. - Love Margaret, Neil and families.

HOOD - In loving memory of my dear husband Robert, who died November 11, 2009. Sadly missed. - From Bessie.

LOVE - In loving memory of a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grampa Bob, who passed away November 10, 2012. Always in our thoughts. - Anne, Elizabeth and family.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Andy a dear brother-in-law, who died November 7, 2017. Always in our thoughts. - Iain, Sandra and family.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Andrew, died November 7, 2017. Loving husband, dad and papa. Sorely missed. - Maureen and family.

MACKAY - In loving memory of our dear parents Bertie, who died on November 11, 1989 and Agnes, who died on January 29, 2011. Always in our thoughts. Also remembering Uncle Jack who died on November 17, 1993.

PARKINSON - Treasured memories of a dear dad and pop Arthur (Scouse), who passed away November 12, 1990. Also remembering his dear wife Jean, MY mum, who passed away recently. Loved and remembered, always and forever. - Peggy, Alistair and family x x

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Gordon and Jane Thomson were gifted a quaich, donated by The Iona Shop, to mark the milestone.

17_t45_WarMuse-um01

Oban War and Peace Museum welcomes 700,000th visitor with special gift

A couple from Granttown-on-Spey received a shock when they walked into the Oban War and Peace Museum on Tuesday morning, writes David McPhee.

Little did they know, they were the museum's 700,000th visitor.

Gordon and Jane Thomson were gifted a quaich, donated by The

Iona Shop, to mark the milestone. The couple, who are in Oban for a short holiday, said they were 'shocked' to receive the silverware.

Bill Leech, the museum's curator, said it was 'amazing' to hit the 700,000 figure. He added: 'A total of 33,000 people are expected to have come through the door this year before the

end of November. It is all volunteer run and we are dependant on our watch keepers.

'We are celebrating our 25th anniversary next year, on the back of the Oban War Exhibition, which was only going to be temporary.

'We have changed our title and home a few times, but we are still going.'

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The last week of October brought day after day of clear blue skies, sunshine and light winds.

What a joy at the time of year when Iona is often a grey and storm-tossed island.

Waking at first light, walking along the beach at sunrise. What a blessing; what a great start to the day.

As a church minister, I love to join with other Christians for worship and prayer and Bible study, but times of solitude in the beauty of creation are often the times when I feel closest to God, hearing His still, small voice, sometimes thinking through things which are on my mind, sometimes simply 'being'.

Much of our church life is very wordy. Silence is golden, as the popular song of my younger days put it.

Here are some words

from the writer Macrina Wiederkehr.

I stand at my window and watch one by one the stars all leave me.

I am having tea with the dawn.

The first ray of sun descending into my teacup, into my heart.

The steam of my tea ascending to the heavens, into God's heart.

The yearning in my heart streaming to the heavens, into God's heart.

And God, standing in the heavens, watching the sun rise in my heart leans down to breathe in the first rays of my yearning and names it 'Morning Prayer'.

From A Tree Full of Angels - Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary.

Reverend Joyce Watson, St Columba, Isle of Iona.



The community tea party was a huge success with residents and community groups.

Inter-generational approach is secret to happy residents at Killin care home

On Friday November 1, The Falls of Dochart Care Home in Killin hosted a community tea party to bring together different community groups including the village nursery, the school and Connect, an organisation supporting people in the community with issues such as mental health and isolation.

Care Home Manager

Mandy Hay said: 'Our residents come from the local area and know the staff, which helps to create a real family atmosphere.'

'Our residents are also very active in the local community for example going on walks, visiting the nursery and attending exercise classes in the hotel.'

'We often have visitors from the school coming

to the care home and vice versa.

'For example, we recently held a Second World War day, and this inter-generational approach really works.'

The home is run by 10 volunteers on a board of directors and is partnered with Ontex Global, which provides training and support for the home.

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Scotland win Mowi Quaich

Mowi Shinty/Hurling Senior International

Ireland (0-4) 4
Scotland (5-1) 26

Scotland won the Mowi Quaich with a convincing 26-4 victory over Ireland at a wet GAA National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown, Dublin, on Saturday November 2.

Home advantage has been key in this fixture in recent years. The Scots were chasing their fourth successive win, although the previous three successes came in Inverness. Ireland last tasted victory in 2015 when they edged out the Scots 16-14 at Croke Park.

Ireland were again co-managed by Willie Maher and Conor Phelan. This was their fifth year against the Scots, including two years with the U21s, but it was their first international on home soil. The Irish were captained for this 2.15pm throw-in by Donegal's Danny Cullen who played in the previous three encounters but, unusually, no players from hurling's top tier were named. Their selection was dominated by players who compete in the second tier Joe McDonagh Cup. This was put down to almost 60 second and third tier players attending the trials and the scheduling of the annual All-Star event the previous evening.

Ireland, however, put together a fairly experienced panel, with eight players from the home squad having previously featured in this fixture. Danny Cullen from Donegal and the combative Damien Healy from Meath both played for the seniors last year and are becoming veterans in this cross-code clash, whilst Derry's Alan Grant was involved in 2017. Kerry's Shane Nolan and Kildare's Paul Divilly both featured in 2016, as did Mikey Boyle from Kerry.

Ryan Mullaney from Laois and Carlow's Sean Whelan both played for the Ireland U21s two years ago with Whelan also named in 2016.

Tyrone's Damian Casey was a late call-off because of club commitments.

Scotland head coach Garry Reid gave full debuts to Caberfeidh duo Craig Morrison and Blair Morrison,



The victorious Scotland shinty team after beating the Ireland hurling team in the annual combined rules Mowi International held in Dublin last weekend.

whilst Robert Mabon, Savio Genini and Donald Nixon made their debuts from the bench. There were also starting spots for Daniel Grieve and Craig Mainland who were both substitutes in 2018.

Ireland made a bright start and, in the opening minute, Cillian Kiely saw an effort from wide on the left drop wide of goal.

However, when Paul Divilly took possession in space wide on the left on two minutes, he launched the ball goalwards and although keeper Stuart MacDonald got a stick to the ball, it looped over the bar.

The hosts added another point soon after when Joey Boyle touched a hit-in from the right inside to Danny Cullen who floated the ball over the bar.

Scotland's Andy MacKintosh went off to receive treatment for what looked like a shoulder problem with Andrew King introduced in his place.

Scotland notched their first point on 12 minutes. Kevin Bartlett played the ball in from wide on the left and Daniel Cameron gathered possession before turning and driving the ball over the bar.

Ireland went back on the attack, but

when Cillian Kiely's ball dropped in on goal, Stuart MacDonald casually swiped it away.

Both sides then passed up good chances to score in quick succession. First, Craig Mainland lofted a dangerous ball into the goal area where Craig Morrison, who has been so deadly in front of goal this season, sent the ball the wrong side of the keeper's right post from the back of the 'D'.

Then, at the other end, Danny Cullen shot wide after good play from Ryan Mullaney.

Scotland got the chance to take the lead on 24 minutes when Michael Doyle was penalised for a 'kick' as he tried to clear his lines and Kevin Bartlett showed his usual composure as he stroked the ball between the posts from right of centre to make it 3-2.

Two minutes later, Danny Cullen ran away from Daniel Grieve as he cut in from the right and was bundled over. There was a let-off for the Scots as Willie Dunphy went for a two-pointer from the free but sent his effort from in front of goal wide of the post.

Brian Tracey saved a Kevin Bartlett free from the right which was dropping in on goal before Damien Healy took a good pass from Alan Grant but struck the ball wide.

Scotland scored their first goal on 31 minutes. Another huge Steven Macdonald free from in front of the stand was knocked down by keeper Brian Tracey, but Craig Morrison was in the right place to sweep the ball into the net from left of centre. Scotland now led 6-2 and they never looked back.

Ireland tried to respond and Cillian Egan dodged a couple of challenges before playing in the ball inside to Padraig Boyle with Stuart MacDonald doing well to clear the dipping ball.

Andrew MacCuish had come off

the Scotland bench a few minutes earlier and made his mark on 35 minutes. Brian Tracey saved well from a Craig Morrison snap-shot but the Irish defence couldn't clear the danger and Kevin Bartlett fed Michael Russell on the left. His cross was turned home by MacCuish in front of goal for his second international goal in two outings.

Cillian Kiely lifted and dropped a dead ball between the posts from the middle of the park on 38 minutes and there was still time for Scotland



Scotland captain Stuart Macdonald lifts the Mowi Challenge Quaich.

debutant Donald Nixon to shoot wide before the referee brought the first 40 minutes to an end with Scotland leading 9-3.

Scotland now had Savio Genini, Greg Matheson and Robert Mabon on and they found the net again less than a minute after the re-start. Michael Russell played the ball in from wide left. Andrew MacCuish, holding off his marker with his back to goal, cleverly allowed the ball to run across his body and Craig Morrison made a great run, in at the

back post, to score his second goal of the game.

Michael Russell went close after being set up by Savio Genini seconds later before Steven Macdonald launched a huge dead ball between the posts from midfield on 44 minutes to open his account.

The Scotland defence were also playing their part. Rory Kennedy always looked assured at the back for the Scots. He was fouled as he took on four hurlers, whilst Andrew King did well to foil another attack.

Robert Mabon's robust challenge on Joey Boyle sparked a midfield flashpoint which saw Damien Healy booked for jabbing Greg Matheson with his hurl. Ireland made the resultant free count with Ryan Mullaney lifting and striking the ball between the posts to make it 14-4.

Finlay MacRae showed his experience throughout for the Scots and took the ball from Rory Kennedy before finding Steven Macdonald on the right with a ball out of defence. Macdonald played a one-two before playing in Andrew MacCuish who cut the ball back to Greg Matheson, but his shot was deflected wide. Steven Macdonald sent the resultant free past the post.

However, when Craig Mainland was brought down on 58 minutes, Steven Macdonald struck the ball sweetly over the bar to make it 16-4.

Good goalkeeping from Stuart Macdonald cleared a dangerous ball just after the hour, before Scotland moved out of sight with another goal on 66 minutes. When Steven Macdonald was fouled on the left, he picked himself up and sent the free into the danger area where keeper Tracey got to the ball. But Roddy Macdonald gleefully hammered the re-bounce home to make it 19-4.

Scotland scored their fifth goal of the game on 68 minutes. Roddy Macdonald got a touch to a Steven



Shane McGovern of Ireland in action against Daniel Grieve of Scotland.

Results

Saturday November 2
Mowi Under 21 Shinty/Hurling International
Ireland 32 v 14 Scotland

Shinty/Hurling International
Ireland 4 v 26 Scotland
Calum Girvan

Mowi North Division One
Lovat P v P Aberdeen University
Unplayable field
Newtonmore 6 v 2 Glengarry
Fort William 0 v 1 Glenurquhart

Fixtures

Saturday November 9
Mowi Premiership
Kinlochshiel v Oban Camanachd
Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore

Mowi North Division One
Aberdeen Uni v Kingussie
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart



MacDonald free and Kevin Bartlett swept the ball into the net.

Savio Genini's movement was good and he played a one-two before striking the ball over to make it 23-4 a minute later. He notched a second point on 73 minutes from another Steven Macdonald free.

Andy MacKintosh was back on for Scotland and, with five minutes remaining, his Newtonmore club-mate Steven Macdonald took his count to six points with a free from in front of the stand which made it 26-4. It was Macdonald's first game back since the Camanachd Cup Final and his excellent performance repaid boss Garry Reid's determination to have him involved, despite injury doubts.

With the clock running down, Roddy MacDonald won the ball and ran through on 79 minutes, but keeper Brian Tracey was quickly off his line to foil the danger.

Scotland didn't have a failure in their squad and Blair Morrison marked his senior debut by being officially named Scotland's top performer.

This was Scotland's fourth successive win in this fixture and after the final whistle, the Mowi Quaich was presented to Scotland captain Stuart MacDonald.

Scotland did well in the game and were convincing winners. But Ireland were disappointing and their decision not to field any top flight players came back to haunt them, whilst also taking something away from the fixture. The Irish haven't recorded a victory since 2015 and they will hopefully seize the

opportunity in 2020 to mount more of a contest.

Scotland from: Stuart MacDonald, Lovat, captain; Rory Kennedy, Newtonmore; Daniel Grieve, Lovat; Andy MacKintosh, Newtonmore; Finlay MacRae, Kinlochshiel; Blair Morrison, Caberfeidh; Craig Mainland, Lovat; Steven Macdonald, Newtonmore; Fraser Heath, Lovat; Michael Russell, Newtonmore; Kevin Bartlett, Caberfeidh; Daniel Cameron, Oban Camanachd; Roddy MacDonald, Kyles Athletic; Craig Morrison, Caberfeidh. Subs: Andrew King, Kyles Athletic; Andrew MacCuish, Oban Camanachd; Greg Matheson, Lovat; Savio Genini, Kingussie; Robert Mabon, Kingussie, and Donald Nixon, Kinlochshiel.

Head coach - Garry Reid.
Assistant coaches - Kenny Ross and Robert Geddes.

Match referee - Calum Girvan.

Mowi Shinty/Hurling U21 International

Ireland U21 (7-11) 32
Scotland U21 (4-2) 14

A strong second half display gave Ireland U21 a 32-14 victory over Scotland U21 in their Mowi Quaich clash at the GAA National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown, Dublin on Saturday November 2.

Attacker Shane Conway, part of the Kerry senior panel, skippered the Irish. He was also Bord Gais Energy U21 Ireland B Hurler of the Year in 2017.

Ireland also fielded Mark Kehoe, a member of the 2019 Tipperary squad which won the 2019 All-Ireland.

Calum Grant, from Mowi Premiership and Artemis Macaulay Cup winners Kingussie, was given the honour of captaining the Scots for this noon throw-in.

Continued on page 84



A determined-looking Craig Mainland in action during the Mowi International in Dublin.

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.
You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.
Competition rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name

Address

.....

Tel No.....

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

RECENT WINNERS:

- T Campbell** Sept '18 **£2500**
- S Campbell** Sept '18 **£2550**
- L Currie** Nov '18 **£800**
- L Nicolson** Dec '18 **£3900**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:
F Brodie
Campbeltown
M Paterson
Lochgilphead

Continued from page 83.

There was a full debut for Ruaridh Anderson in the Scotland attack, whilst the other new caps, William MacKinnon, Alexander Michie, Andrew Morrison, Daniel MacCuish Lachie Shaw and Kieran MacPherson, started on the bench alongside Alexander Michie.

Seventeen-year-old Daniel Sloss, who was a substitute in 2018, lined up in defence with Daniel MacVicar, who was last involved in the 2016 international, also given a starting slot.

The young Scots recorded a 25-13 triumph following a bruising encounter in Dublin last year and they took an early 6-3 advantage in this one with Ruaridh Anderson and Daniel MacVicar both netting.

Ireland almost converted a chance on 16 minutes but the ball was stopped brilliantly on the line by defender Iain Richardson.

Scotland went on the attack but were unable to capitalise on a set-piece opportunity after Roddy Young had been fouled.

The match was flowing from end-to-end and Lachie Smith mopped up a couple of threatening Irish attacks.

Roddy Young shot wide of the near post after good play from the Scots, but they had keeper Scott MacLachlan to thank for a fine save a couple of minutes later.

However he couldn't keep out an effort from Ireland skipper Shane Conway who levelled the contest at 6-6 on 23 minutes.

Scotland's response was instant though and Ruaridh Anderson's second goal made it 9-6.

Ireland added two more points to make it 9-8 a couple of minutes later.

Scotland went back on the attack and Innes Blackhall drove the ball home from close range on 36 minutes, with Findlay MacDonald also striking a point, to make it 13-8.

In a sign of what was to come, Ireland finished the first half strongly, adding four more points, to cut Scotland's interval lead to 13-12.

The second half saw a display of Irish dominance and they streaked ahead, adding point after goal to eventually win 32-14.

Scotland's only second half counter came from Fort William's Lachie Shaw, with a point on his debut.

The final count saw Scotland player of the match Ruaridh Anderson score two goals, with Daniel MacVicar and Innes Blackhall getting the others. Findlay MacDonald and Lachie Shaw added points.



Scotland's Daniel Sloss in action against Shane Conway of Ireland during the U21 game.

Four-goal Mark Kehoe, as well as Shane Conway with two goals and six points, were Ireland's top scorers. Donal Burke notched two points whilst Barry Mahony, James Keyes and Chris Nolan added further Irish points with Darren Morrissey also finding the net.

After the final whistle, the Mowi Quaich was presented to Ireland captain Shane Conway.

Scotland U21 from: Scott MacLachlan, Inveraray; Lachlan Smith, Glenurquhart; Calum Grant, Kingussie, captain; Daniel Sloss, Oban Camanachd; Ross MacMillan, Oban Celtic; Danny Kelly, Lovat; Findlay MacDonald, Lochaber; Iain Richardson, Newtonmore; Daniel MacVicar, Oban Camanachd; Innes Blackhall, Kilmallie; Jonnie MacAskill, Glasgow Mid Argyll; Ruaridh Anderson, Kingussie; Iain Robinson, Newtonmore, and Roddy Young, Kingussie. Subs: William MacKinnon, Skye Camanachd; Alexander Michie, Kingussie; Andrew Morrison, Beauly; Daniel MacCuish, Oban Camanachd; Lachie Shaw, Fort William, and Kieran MacPherson, Kingussie.

Head coach - Alan MacRae. Match referee - Sean Stack.

Mowi North Division 1 Newtonmore 6 Glenurquhart 2

The Newtonmore second team are Mowi North Division 1 title favourites after beating challengers Glenurquhart 6-2 at the Eilan.

These sides have been battling it out for the title for most of the season and Glenurquhart, in what was their final league fixture, knew a draw would be enough to give them the title. They had also beaten Newtonmore 4-3 at Craighard in their last outing four weeks earlier.

The Newtonmore colts simply needed to win to keep their hopes of retaining the trophy alive.

It had been wet overnight and the Newtonmore ground staff were busy ahead of throw-up, brushing water off the pitch. It remained damp

underfoot with some ground water evident, but referee Graham Cameron deemed the conditions fair and both teams were keen to get the game underway.

Newtonmore were without Neil Stewart, Ryan Spinks, Stuart Mitchell and Cameron McNiven. Fraser Macintosh kept his place from the previous Saturday and Owen Fraser and Drew Macdonald were added to the squad.

Newtonmore's Calum Stewart pulled up injured ahead of the match so there was a late call-up for Glen MacKintosh who started on the bench. Boss Orsten Gardner also gave starting slots to six teenagers.

Glenurquhart were along usual lines with Matthew Ross and James MacRae in defence, the ever reliable Steven Cameron in midfield, Nick Dalgety and Raymond Robertson in attack and five substitutes on their bench.

Both teams started competitively but it was Newtonmore who took the lead on six minutes. The goal came from a corner on the left which was knocked back out by Stuart MacArthur to Charlie Ferguson and his chip was turned home on his left side from the left of the 'D' by Fraser MacKintosh, using his huge reach to good effect and giving the keeper no chance.

Nick Dalgety drew Glenurquhart level with the goal of the match on 11 minutes. Shaun Sloggie gathered possession following a contentious Newtonmore hit-in and he played the ball down the right to Finlay Nicolson who passed possession inside to Raymond Robertson in a central position.

Robertson played a perfectly weighted pass to Nick Dalgety who was running towards the right of the 'D' and he tucked the ball low into the corner of the net past advancing keeper Calum Grover to make it 1-1.

The hosts had chances to

go back in front but a combination of poor finishing and excellent goalkeeping from Gordon MacDonald kept the scores level.

It was Nick Dalgety again on 33 minutes who put Glenurquhart ahead. A long shy from Scott Bremner on the left fell to Raymond Robertson who turned his marker and fired away a shot which was saved with his feet by Calum Grover. But the re-bounce was volleyed in by Dalgety from close range.

With just one first half minute remaining, Newtonmore equalised when, after good work by Drew MacDonald on the left, Andrew Buchan finished confidently from a central position.

Newtonmore introduced Glen MacKintosh for Charlie Ferguson at half-time, with MacKintosh making only his third appearance for the blue and whites over the last five months.

MacKintosh's impact was immediate and he put Newtonmore back in front on 49 minutes with a turn and 25-yard rocket-shot which went into the top corner of the net to the keeper's left side.



Glenurquhart's Raymond Robertson soaks Newtonmore's Scott Chisholm during last weekend's Mowi North Division One game at The Eilan.

Photograph: Neil Paterson.

Straight from the re-start, a fine long Craig MacLeod ball from wide on the left found Drew MacDonald racing in at the back post and his crisp drive made it 4-2.

Newtonmore were now on top and Glenurquhart keeper Gordon MacDonald produced some stunning saves, particularly with his stick from a Glen MacKintosh rocket, to keep his team in the match.

Glenurquhart grew back into the game though, putting Newtonmore's young defence under pressure for a period, and it wasn't until three minutes from time when Newtonmore's top scorer Craig MacLeod made the points safe as he ran onto a long free-hit before checking back and making it 5-2 with a low, hard drive from the left.

Glen MacKintosh put gloss on the victory, making it 6-2 on 89 minutes. Calum Grover's long goal-hit was played on to MacKintosh on the left and he made enough space to evade marker Matthew Ross before shooting low across the keeper to round off the win.

There were yellow cards for Newtonmore trio James Ross, Owen Fraser and Duncan Gorman as well as Glenurquhart pair Scott Bremner and Nick Dalgety.

Best for Newtonmore were Drew MacDonald, Scott Chisholm and Duncan Gorman.

Glenurquhart's top performers were danger men Nick Dalgety, Raymond Robertson, the ever-young Steven Cameron and man of the match Gordon MacDonald.

Newtonmore's final two fixtures are at home to the Glenurquhart seconds this Saturday, with Aberdeen University the visitors to the Eilan the week after.

Two wins will mean Newtonmore retain the trophy for the fourth consecutive season, although three points may be enough as their goal

difference is currently only four behind Glenurquhart.

Fort William 0 Glenurquhart 1

The Glenurquhart second team were 1-0 winners against the Fort William second team at An Aird.

David MacLennan scored the only goal of the game after 30 minutes.

This was Glenurquhart's final match of the season and they finish fifth.

Fort William drop to third and can still be overtaken by fourth-placed Lovat colts who are a point behind with a match remaining against bottom-placed Aberdeen University.

Lovat P Aberdeen University P

The 1pm throw-up between the Lovat colts and Aberdeen University was called off on Saturday morning as Balgait was unplayable.

WCA round-up Scotland U18 1

Scotland Development squad beat the Scotland U18 squad 3-1 at Ballachulish on Saturday November 2.

Lochaber's Natalie MacDonald, Skye's Emma Gordon and Ardnamurchan's Joanne Ford had the Development squad 3-0 ahead before Glenurquhart's Abi Stoddart countered.

This weekend's fixtures

The penultimate round of fixtures in the Mowi Premiership are scheduled for this Saturday.

The Oban Camanachd squad rounds off their season with a trip to play Kinlochshiel.

Both sides will continue to take the opportunity to field younger players; giving them valuable game experience ahead of next season.

Meantime, Newtonmore travel to Tighnabruaich to face Kyles Athletic in what is manager Paul John MacKintosh's final match in charge.

There are also two Mowi North Division 1 matches as the Newtonmore and Glenurquhart second teams meet at the Eilan, whilst Aberdeen University welcome the Kingussie colts.

Annual Mowi Shinty Awards

The Mowi Conference and Awards Ceremony will take place in the Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness, on Saturday November 9.

Nominations are closed and the winners from the various categories will be announced at the event.

Saints Under 13s are on the ball



Oban Saints Under 13s received a gift of footballs from West Coast Motors. Fleet manager Russell Dodds presented the balls and wished the boys all the best for the future. The Under 13 squad are grateful to West Coast Motors for the generous gift.

'Spòrs Gàidhlig' project to continue

The pioneering 'Spòrs Gàidhlig' project, delivering Gaelic-language outdoor activities, is to continue following the announcement of further funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

It had been feared the project would have to close, with two staff being made redundant, as sales uptake had not grown as quickly as expected.

The new £45,000 funding package from Bòrd na Gàidhlig means Spòrs Gàidhlig can continue for at least the next 18 months, during which time it is hoped more schools and parents will take advantage of the opportunities offered.

Spòrs Gàidhlig is a project created by youth and community development company Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG).

CnaG chief executive Donald MacNeill said: 'We are delighted we have been able to reach agreement with Bòrd na Gàidhlig to secure this additional support. We've been working on this project for four or five years, but are as convinced now, as we were at the beginning, of the value of this project - supporting young people's language, social and physical development.'

'This new Bòrd na Gàidhlig support is a vital part of our funding package, but it remains the case that we

will have to earn £120,000 in sales income over the next 18 months to make the project sustainable into the longer term. This will be quite a challenge, but we are optimistic based on the progress we have made already and the offers of support we have had on social media from parents and schools.'

Formally established in 2017, Spòrs Gàidhlig has focussed on training a small team of Gaelic-speaking instructors in a variety of outdoor activities.

These qualifications, and the securing of the essential Adventurous Activities Licensing Agency in 2018 allowed the team to begin delivering outdoor activity sessions in Gaelic - primarily to schools, but also through bookings with individual parents or groups of parents.

Activities provided range from climbing to gorge walking, SUP paddle boards to orienteering, bush craft, or Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. All of these are delivered in Gaelic - helping to support the language learning of pupils following Gaelic Medium Education (GME). In a strong partnership with Glenmore Lodge, sportscotland's national outdoor training centre near Aviemore, it has also been possible to deliver high-quality residential trips to GME pupils.

Spòrs Gàidhlig project

manager Donald Morris said: 'It is great news that we can continue for the next 18 months.'

'We are extremely grateful for the supportive letters and comments we received from parents and others when Spòrs Gàidhlig was threatened with closure. Knowing the work was so widely and highly-regarded was a boost to staff and gives us a lot of

GAELIC SPORT

confidence to sustain our efforts.

'We would urge any school or parent group who wants to know more to get in touch.'

For more information please contact Mairi Morrison on mairi.morrison@morri-son-media.co.uk or 07557 075365.

Challenging conditions for Cairndow Clay Target Club



Shooters enjoyed a good day, despite challenging conditions.

A mixed bag of weather greeted shooters for the down-the-line competition at Cairndow on Saturday October 26.

Challenging light conditions made the targets virtually impossible to see at times.

Competitors and Cairndow Clay Target Club members thank Susie Croot for keeping them fed and watered.

TARGET SHOOTING

Persevering in the changeable weather, the prize-winners were: 1 = Alan Brown and Nick McFarlane, 145/150; 3 Ted Blakeway, 144; 4 John Gilchrist, 142; 5 Jay Shields 139. Junior winner: Scott Cameron, 119.

Martial arts

IAIN RODGER
editor@obantimes.co.uk



Kyokushinkai Karate

This Sunday sees the 2019 Caledonia Kyokushin Junior tournament at Mid Argyll Sports Centre, Lochgilphead. Entries are coming in from several clubs from as far away as Perth. A full report on the tournament will be in the next report in two weeks.

The club's next intake of beginners will be at the start of January to allow those already training to concentrate on their syllabus work for the next grading test in December.

For details about Kyokushinkai Karate classes contact Iain on 07584 166542 or email iain@ikku.co.uk. The club can also be found and messaged on Facebook under Caledonia Kyokushin.

Kickboxing

The juniors at Senshi Do Kick Boxing are training hard for the Caledonia Kyokushin Clicker tournament on November 10 in Lochgilphead. This annual tournament is a highlight of the year for the juniors and those that enter never fail to enjoy the experience.

The next grading will be on Saturday December 14 with several of the youngsters going for their Junior Black Belt and two of the older ones going for their 1st Dan Black Belt.

Training is every Wednesday from 4.30pm until 6pm for juniors, five years to 15 years, then from 6pm until 7.30pm for seniors. Also Sundays from 11am until 1pm for juniors. Beginners are always welcome and more information is available on our Facebook page Senshi Do Kickboxing or by emailing shihanwill@gmail.com



Youngsters from Senshi Do Kickboxing are training hard for the Kyokushin Tournament in Lochgilphead.

Shukokai Karate

The students are training hard for the tournament in Lochgilphead on November 10 and for the next grading test in Dalmally Community Centre on November 24.

Anyone looking for information on these clubs can get details from Kenny Gray on 07884 183905 or kenni.gray@btinternet.com

BJJ & MMA

The club is always looking for new members to try out Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA).

If you would like to try out BJJ or MMA, Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or email coach Coogie Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com

Wado Kai Karate

Oban Wado Kai karate clubs are hosting a course this weekend at Atlantis Leisure from 11am to 4pm. This will be a combined styles event led by Ronnie Watt Shoto-kan Master (9th Dan) from Aberdeen and his lifelong friend Chris Bruce, 8th Dan Wado Ryu who is based in Oban. The event will incorporate a Bunkai Masterclass led by Ronnie using Kata forms familiar across various styles of karate and a grading event. There will also be basics training for some of the youngsters who train at Park Primary School once a week and any other young students of the sport. The cost is £25 per person for the day. Anyone wishing to attend this course should contact Mike Faulkner or Chris Bruce, details below.

Anyone interested in Wado karate should contact Mike Faulkner for the Park Primary School classes. These sessions are for children aged 7 to 10 years and are at 3.15pm. Mike can be contacted by emailing m.faulkner6@btinternet.com

For the Dunbeg classes, contact Chris Bruce by emailing crb999@btinternet.com

OT

MOTO3



John McPhee was hit from behind on lap six.

John takes positives from seventh place in Malaysia

Oban's John McPhee is focusing on the positives from his weekend at the Sepang International Circuit after finishing Malaysia Motorcycle Grand Prix in seventh following contact with another rider.

John was quick to get involved in the fight for the podium in the early stages of the race, implementing his typical strategy of sitting comfortably inside the top six and conserving his tyres. However, taking avoiding action on lap six to miss a crash right in front of him, he was struck by another rider, leaving him to nurse home a damaged machine to seventh.

Only 1.342secs from the win and less than half a second from a podium finish, the result helps him to protect his fifth place in the championship.

The 2019 Moto3 season will conclude in two weeks' time at the Gran Premio de la Comunitat Valenciana, with track action getting under way on November 14 and race day on Sunday November 17.

After the race John said: 'I felt really good at the start of the race, and was trying to conserve the tyre and not do anything silly. There was a crash in front of me six laps in and I had to roll off the throttle to avoid it – and someone hit me from behind.'

'We're checking to be sure, but it felt like the impact took a chunk out of the rear tyre and instantly I had a vibration appear. It got less and less as the race progressed and for 75 per cent of the lap it wasn't an issue, but in the long corners where you're on the side of the tyre, it upset the front.'

'It's a shame not to be in the fight for the win on the last lap and it wasn't the result I was hoping for at the team's home race, but it's more points on the board and more data gathered for 2020.'

RUGBY

Oban Lorne back in action

After a four-week break Oban Lorne men's team return to action on Saturday with a home game against bottom of the table Uddingston. The Green Machine are lying in fourth place in the league, but with games in hand, so they will be hoping to pick up full points from the Uddingston fixture.

Oban Lorne Ladies travelled to Cupar last Sunday but returned home on the wrong end of a 42-12 scoreline. The girls are on their travels again this weekend when they take on Broughton Ladies in Edinburgh.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTH TEAMS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Under-13s no game; Under-14s no game; Carmunnock 3, Under-15s 2. Scoring for Saints were Ruairidh Buchanan and Kyle Cooper; Under-17s no game.

This Sunday's fixtures: Under-13s v Dunoon; Under-14s no game; Under-15s v Helensburgh; Under-17s v Westercommon.

Four goal Saints the Scottish Cup

Westerlands	1
Oban Saints	4
Scottish Cup - 3rd Round	

Two typically crisp strikes from Donald Campbell helped Saints past a stuffy Westerlands side, who gave a good account of themselves throughout, and into the fourth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup at a damp Garscube Sports Complex last Saturday afternoon.

Also on the score sheet for Saints against the Caledonian League First Division promotion chasers were captain Dene Cassells, who showed the strikers how to dispatch a penalty kick, and the evergreen Ross Maitland who wrapped up a 4-1 victory with his first touch after coming on as a second half substitute.

Co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie

Gemmell were deprived of the services of Graham Douglas, Cammy Hill and Matt Rippon who all dropped out of the squad from the previous week's home league win over Garrohill Thistle. Coming in to join the travelling party were able deputies Murdo MacKenzie, James Ford and Ross Maitland.

Westerlands, with Obanites Elliot Dougall and Liam MacIntyre in their ranks, kicked off on the narrow grass park on the banks of the river Kelvin which was in remarkably good condition given the recent heavy rain.

Tempting

Saints started brightly with Ruairidh Horne sending a tempting second-minute cross into the box looking for Donald Campbell which Calum Windram did well to head away and Caledonian League Select goalkeeper

Blair Haldane showing good reactions getting down to his left to push away a Lewis Cameron shot from 18 yards 60 seconds later

Saints were enjoying the majority of the possession but were finding the Westerlands defence, with Liam MacIntyre at it's heart, a difficult nut to crack until a stroke of good fortune in the 27th minute.

Lewis Cameron's cross from the right edge of the penalty area hit the outstretched hand of Gavin Edwards which, although unfortunate for the big central defender, was correctly ruled as a penalty kick by referee Ian Hamilton who handled proceedings well throughout.

With Donald Campbell and Lewis Cameron both having had mixed results from the penalty spot in recent weeks captain Dene Cassells decided to show the strikers how it

should be done and smashed an emphatic spot kick past Blair Haldane to open the scoring.

The lead lasted barely 60 seconds as Calum McCrossan pounced on a rare slip by Ruairidh Horne, who produced an otherwise steady performance at right back, and poked a good finish underneath the advancing Murdo MacKenzie to draw the hosts level.

Impressed

Saints responded with a Donald Campbell shot after good link up play by Scott Maitland, Lewis Cameron and Matty Kelly. The three must have impressed Central Scottish League Select manager Colin Hamilton and Scottish Amateur FA International gaffer Colin MacLeod who were both in attendance.

Saints ended the half on



Liam MacIntyre.



Elliot Dougall.



Dene Cassells gives Saints the lead from the penalty spot.

Oban Otters bring home the silverware

Oban Otters sprinted home with eight medals at the Kingston Sprints at Larkhall on Sunday and 12 places. Ten swimmers made the three-hour trip and came home with 24 personal bests, five golds, three silvers, three fourth places, five fifths and three sixths.

There were also five swims that were faster than the entry times, which allows these swimmers to enter quicker graded competitions in the future.

Rachel Carre won gold for back crawl and free style, both faster than the entry times. Juliette Main won gold

for breast stroke and back crawl and one faster than entry time. Edie Elliott took gold for free style and silver in back crawl with one faster than entry time.

Abby MacQueen took gold for fly with a faster than entry time. Jessica Main won silver in the breast stroke, with an

SWIMMING

almost four second personal best.

Fourteen-year-old Edie Elliott said: 'It was great fun to be swimming 50m sprints, as you can really push yourself to swim your fastest'.



Left to right: Juliette Main, Abby MacQueen, Anna Logan, Ben Docherty, Megan Carre.



Left to right: Edie Elliott, Jessica Main, Kay Logan, Abby Docherty, Rachel Carre.

venture forth in



Donald Campbell fires home the first of his two goals. Match report and photographs: Derek Black



Murdo MacKenzie shows a safe pair of hands.



Ross Maitland scored Saints fourth goal.

the front foot with Ruaridh Horne winning a corner kick which Blair Haldane did well to hold under pressure from Craig MacEwan before referee Hamilton blew for half-time.

The interval did little to derail the Saints momentum and five minutes after the restart their endeavour was rewarded with a second goal.

Scott Maitland made good ground on the left and rolled the ball up to Craig MacEwan on the edge of the box who tee'd up Donald Campbell with a delightful lay-off which the co-gaffer thumped across Blair Haldane into the far corner of the net.

Few inches

Last season's top goal scorer Lewis Cameron came within a few inches of ending his mini goal drought when he sent a free-kick just wide of Blair Haldane's left hand post after Liam MacIntyre had bundled him over 24 yards from goal.

Saints doubled their advantage in the 57th minute when Donald Campbell met David Beaton's cross perfectly on the half volley sending his right foot strike flying past Blair Haldane after Beaton

and Ruaridh Horne had linked up well on the right. Westerlands kept up their pursuit of an avenue back into the match and were denied a second goal by a fine save from Murdo MacKenzie after Grant MacFarlane prodded a loose ball goalwards as Saints struggled to clear a long free-kick from just inside their own half.

Both sides made changes with 25 minutes remaining with Ewan Dempster replacing Grant MacFarlane for the hosts and Ross Maitland coming on to make a telling contribution at the expense of David Beaton who had put in another good shift on the Saints right.

Maitland's introduction produced instant results when the evergreen winger in his 23rd Saints season slammed the ball into the roof of the net from 14 yards after Blair Haldane could only parry a Donald Campbell shot on the turn.

Blair Haldane made an excellent save standing up well at his near post to narrow the angle and deny Craig MacEwan from a Donald Campbell lay-off in the 73rd minute.

Teenagers Gavin Forgive and Aaron McKay were given the chance to shine in front of the watching Central Scottish Amateur Football League top brass when they replaced Donald Campbell and Matty Kelly for the closing 15 minutes.

Dene Cassells picked up a cheap yellow card, the only one of the match, for kicking the ball away at a disputed throw-in which went in favour of the home side.

Aaron McKay lifted a decent effort from the edge of the box just over the crossbar after Gavin Edwards had beaten Craig MacEwan in the air to head out a Ross Maitland right wing corner kick.

Interception

Gavin Edwards made an excellent sliding interception to prevent Craig MacEwan from adding to the scoring after latching onto a Lewis Cameron through ball. That proved to be Cameron's final contribution of another productive afternoon and he was replaced for the closing stages by James Ford.

Mr Hamilton brought proceedings to a close after two

FOOTBALL

added minutes confirming Saints place in this Friday's fourth round draw. Saints were due to play St Patrick's FP in the Cinema Cup on Saturday but the Dumbarton side's Scottish Cup match at Glenrothes was postponed last weekend so that game takes priority leaving Saints with no fixture this Saturday.

Oban Saints GG team travelled to take on Erskine in the President's Cup last Saturday where they lost a close match 2-1. On target for Saints was Robert Johnstone.

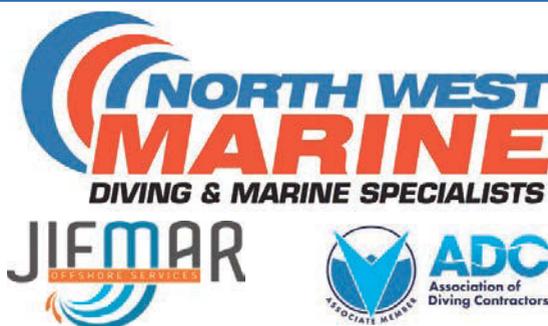
The team are on their travels again this weekend when Ferguslie Star are the opponents in a Greater Glasgow League match.

Saints are lying second in the league with Ferguslie in fourth place so a good game is in prospect.

Oban Saints duo Lewis Cameron and Scott Maitland attended a Scottish Amateur FA training session at the Falkirk Stadium last Sunday in preparation for the forthcoming international matches later in the season.



Scott Maitland in action during the international training session at the Falkirk Stadium.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
2°C to 7°C.

Friday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
3°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Light rain and a moderate breeze
Sunday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
5°C to 7°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday November 7, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	02.56	2.9	08.38	1.8
Thur	14.57	3.4	21.17	1.8
Fri	03.22	3.1	09.29	1.6
	15.31	3.6	21.53	1.6
Sat	03.48	3.4	10.09	1.4
	16.04	3.7	22.44	1.4
Sun	04.18	3.6	10.42	1.3
	16.36	3.9	22.53	1.2
Mon	04.50	3.8	11.12	1.2
	17.10	4.0	23.24	1.1
Tues	05.21	3.9	11.41	1.1
	17.42	4.1	23.55	1.0
Wed	05.49	3.9	12.11	1.1
	18.12	4.1	***	**

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

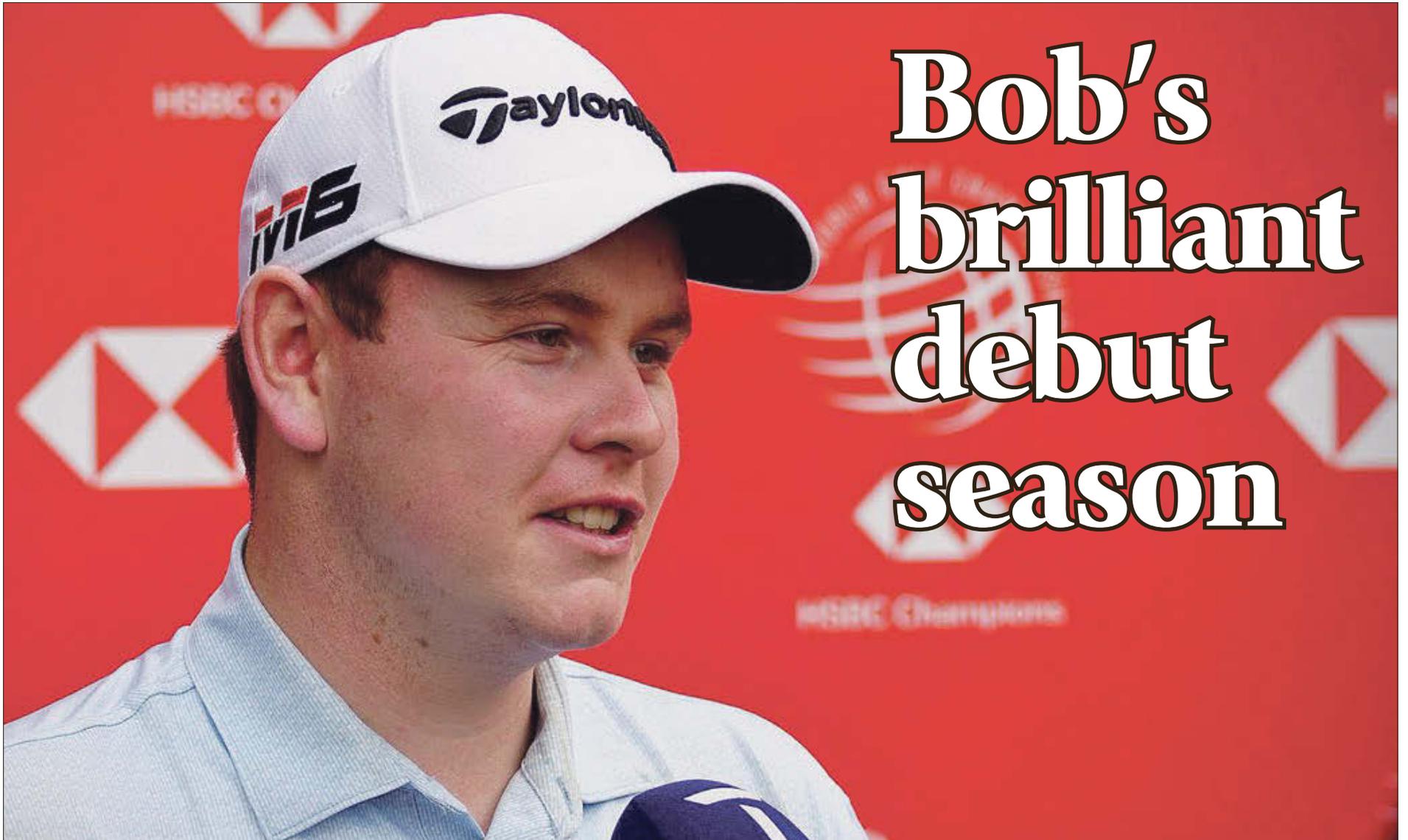
Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.

INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Oban Otters
bring home
the silverware

Four goal Saints
venture forth in
the Scottish Cup



Bob's brilliant debut season

Bob being interviewed during last week's World Golf Championship event in Shanghai. Photograph: Bounce Sports

Oban's rising European Tour star Bob MacIntyre brings the curtain down on his brilliant debut year on the European tour by entering arguably the most exciting and potentially lucrative part of his season.

Having finished a more than creditable 17th in his inaugural World Golf Championship event at the weekend - Bob's nine under par total saw him finish ahead of major winners Francesco Molinari, Phil Mickelson, Justin Rose and Shane Lowry - the Glencruitten club member

has comfortably qualified for the Race to Dubai Final series which kicks off in Turkey this week.

Bob currently sits ninth in the Race to Dubai and, remarkably for a rookie, is guaranteed to tee up in the three remaining events of the season. The Turkish Open is followed by the Nedbank Challenge in South Africa, with the DP Tour Championship in Dubai on November 21.

In total the three tournaments offer \$22.5million

prize money, with an additional \$5m bonus pot shared between the top five in the standings.

With significant world ranking points also up for grabs in all three events, a strong finish to the season could see Bob significantly improve on his current world ranking of 83, as well as add to the 1.7million Euro prize money he has banked so far this season.

Bob said: 'What a schedule and, to be honest, I didn't really expect to be in this po-

sition heading into the final few weeks of the season. My goal at the start of the season was to keep my card somehow but, as I have discovered, things can move fast in this game and I will certainly be aiming to enjoy this exciting end to the campaign.'

'My game has been good all year. I've actually been disappointed with some results but, overall, I'm over the moon with how things have gone and where I am sitting in the Race to Dubai, having climbed to ninth position.

'The ultimate goal for the rest of the year is to try and get into the world's top 50 before Christmas as that would take care of everything for next year.'

'It is my first time playing a WGC and also the first time playing the final few events in the Race to Dubai. If I can go into these next few weeks and throw in some good performances, I don't see why I can't achieve that ultimate goal.'

'But it's just about trying to finish as high up the Race to Dubai as I can and pick up as

GOLF

many world ranking points as I can.

'People obviously have expectations about me now, but I don't really worry about that. I just go and play golf. If it's good, then great, but if not, I will just have to go away and work on something.'



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SEE PAGE 11



Lochaber makes call to be site of new medical school

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Blar Mhor in Fort William, earmarked as the site for a replacement for the town's ageing Belford Hospital, would be the ideal location for the Scottish Government's promised new medical school.

So said Councillor Allan Henderson, Caol and Mallaig, this week, commenting on calls for the SNP administration at Holyrood to consider siting the new medical training centre in the Highlands and Islands.

In the Scottish Parliament last week, Highlands and Islands Labour MSP David Stewart questioned Cabinet Secretary for Health Jeane Freeman MSP on whether she agreed the Highlands and Islands was the most suitable location for the medical school.

Speaking afterwards, he told the Lochaber Times it would be a 'huge boost' for the region.

'NHS Highland's pledge to rebuild Belford Hospital

by 2023 must have been welcome news for the staff who say they're struggling in a building that's on its last legs,' he said.

'What a boost for Lochaber if the Scottish Government agreed to locate this new facility next to or near the new hospital.'

Plans for a new medical school are in the SNP's Programme for Government.

Speaking in chamber, Mr Stewart, Labour's shadow minister for public health, said: 'One key aspect of NHS Workforce Planning, post-Brexit, is the creation of a new medical school, as promised by the Programme for Government.'

'Does the cabinet secretary share my view that there is a strong case to be made for the new school to be located within Highlands and Islands as part of the UHI network.'

'Does she agree this would make sense in workforce planning terms for the doctors of the future and would also send a clear message that

Highlands and Islands is a vibrant and dynamic area to live and work in?'

Congratulating him for being the first MSP to battle for the new building, Ms Freeman said: 'As I've said to him and to others, I am waiting to see what offers and options come forward including from our existing medical schools which have also stepped forward in terms of telling us what it is possible for them to do.'

'We will carefully consider all of those propositions but what we will aim to do is ensure equity of access and maximum opportunity for our young people and others in Scotland to train to be a doctor and then to be employed in our health service in Scotland.'

Asked what he thought, Councillor Henderson, chairman of Highland Council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee, told the Lochaber Times he welcomed any possibility Lochaber could be considered as the location



School staff join in Hallowe'en costume fun

Inverlochry Primary School staff joined in the Hallowe'en fun with colourful costumes. Primary four teacher Amy Feighan, far left, dressed as 'Theresa May' – the subject chosen by her class – was judged overall winner in a pupil vote. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos. See page two for more Hallowe'en fun.

of the new medical school, saying: 'A new medical school in Lochaber would not only bring opportunities for new high grade jobs, but give

young trainee doctors a taste of the Highlands and possibly encourage them to remain after qualifying.

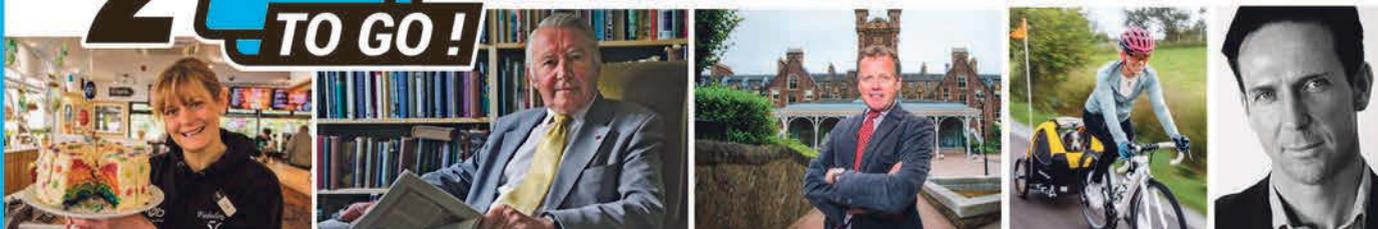
'Then, going in to rural

practice or in to hospitals such as the rural general Belford, would allow young doctors to sample the working

Continued on page three.

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LT

Hallowe'en fun in focus



Caol care home staff's special concert welcome

Staff at Moss Park Care Home, Caol, decorated the entrance to welcome visitors to their Hallowe'en concert. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Plock shock night a hit

Exorcising its past, the Skye Bridge Toll Office opened its doors to a free community Hallowe'en event on Friday, writes Anna-Roisin Ullman-Smith.

The toll office is now in public ownership and managed by Kyle of Lochalsh Community Trust (KLCT) which is working with community groups to bring events and workshops on to the Plock of Kyle.

The evening was the brainchild of the charities team from Plockton High School's fifth and sixth year pupils. Supported by teachers Lorraine Dell and Andrew McGrath, the students worked hard to create an exciting night walk script and spine-chilling effects.

The evening began at 5.30pm with Scary Tales for children in the event room,

featuring wizard of words Chris O'Malley, of Red Rabbit Rises Publishing.

Chris had crafted original spooky stories for children and children at heart. When the audience left the story room they found a couple of wandering and wafting witches had arrived outside.

The witches were being cared for by Caitlin and Keira Turnbull of Black Dog Puppet Company. The children enjoyed chasing the witches and refuelled their energy in the Beastly Games Room where there was a table of Gruesome Grub, care of master baker Drew McGrath.

Chris O'Malley judged the Hallowe'en stories competition, run by Plockton High School Library with the Charities Team. The winner was Eden Maxwell. Chris and Lorraine Dell then gathered

the audience arriving for the 7.30pm night walk.

This walk was not for the faint-hearted. The audience found a caped figure, the Plock Keeper, who welcomed them to the Plock, but before they could start, they were challenged by a tall dark stranger, the Bodach Lamh Dheirg – the spirit of the ancient forest – who suddenly broke out of the night, brandishing a sword. After promising to leave nothing but footprints, the walkers passed into the woods, led by the Plock Keeper. Out of the woods on all sides were faceless ghouls, ghosts and flickering Will o' the Wisps.

Suddenly a Berserker Viking ran out and through the crowd, eliciting some pandemonium among the younger walkers.

Further on, after a few people had been dragged screaming into the woods, the walk encountered Spring-

Heeled-Jack, The Selkie Wife, the Ancient Crofter and the Lost Fisherman held prisoner by the Blue Men of the Minch.

The finale was a challenge by the Bodach Lamh Dheirg and all the Faceless Ghouls, who demanded that nothing had been picked and no litter had been left.

Cally Ullman-Smith and Eubha MacLean of the Charities Team said: 'It has been a lot of fun working with everyone involved and we have had amazing support from our teachers.

'Everyone has given up so much time to prepare this and we all enjoyed putting the script together. The walk went so well.

'We really scared people, but in a good way.

'I think people will feel the Plock is magical any time of the day after this.'

The event was funded by the Co-op Local Community Fund.



James Rodger in his award-winning Rubik's Cube costume.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Inverloch Primary School staff and pupils enjoy party

Inverloch Primary School staff and pupils enjoyed a Hallowe'en party last week, when youngsters and adults dressed up in some amazing costumes.



The prizewinning Hallowe'en costumes at Inverloch Primary School.

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HIE bosses aware of Corpach complaints



Jason Jeffrey.

Body found in search for Fort teenager

Police Scotland reported on Monday that the search for missing Fort William teenager Jason Jeffrey, 17, had been stood down following the discovery of a body.

The family of Jason has been made aware.

Jason was last seen leaving an address on Cameron Road, Fort William, around 1.30pm on Saturday November 2.

Police Scotland thanked the public for their assistance and concerns in the search for Jason.

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) says it is aware of concerns from Corpach residents over noise and light pollution, and the potential for any deep water expansion of the local port to exacerbate those problems.

The assurance came in the wake of a visit last week to Lochaber by the board of HIE during which board members met businesses and community groups.

There have been long-standing complaints from Corpach residents that not enough was being done by Highland Council to tackle noise and light pollution issues.

Back in the summer, a meeting of Kilmallie Community

Council heard an update on the feasibility study currently being carried out into the creation of a deep water port at Corpach.

Docking

The meeting also heard about the disturbance caused by ships' on-board generators running throughout the night, as well as ships sometimes docking in port on a Sunday in what some residents claim is a contravention of the port operating conditions.

The feasibility study is being worked on by HIE, along with Boyd Brothers Haulage and Liberty British Aluminium.

However, as well as complaints about current noise and light pollution issues, there are growing concerns that because of the perceived

lack of action by Highland Council to tackle these issues, any expansion of the port will risk making such problems considerably worse.

Asked this week if, after its visit to Lochaber, the board of HIE knew of the residents' complaints, a spokesperson for HIE told the Lochaber Times: 'We are aware of those concerns and that they are being monitored through the relevant authorities.'

'In progressing future development, we expect an environmental impact assessment will be required, and this would include habitats, air quality, noise and visual aspects.'

'This would be reviewed by relevant agencies in terms of both construction and operation.'

There have been long-standing complaints from Corpach residents about noise and light pollution at the harbour.

Lochaber makes call to be site of new medical school

Continued from page one and lifestyle of Highlanders encountering a wider range of training and skills.

'There surely cannot be another available site, such as the Blar Mhor, capable of housing a medical training school, a rural general hospital and beside the intended Lochaber College STEM centre.

'As councillors, I am sure

we could even encourage such a happening by looking at granting the community element of the site which currently sits cleared, but with no intended use, or funding stream.'

Duty

Mr Stewart added: 'The government has a duty to the people of the Highlands and Islands to use every possible method to avert a medical

staffing crisis that threatens patients and services.

'And given the difficulty of attracting GPs and doctors to the region, a medical school could act like a magnet for those much-needed workers. I will campaign with intensity for this new medical centre to be created and for it to be located in my home constituency where it is needed the most.'

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LT

Conference attracts international audience

Scotland's mussel and oyster farmers descended on Oban last week for the annual Best Scottish Shellfish conference and competition.

The two-day event, hosted by the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers (ASSG), is held in the Corran Halls and attracts people from all over the world.

The competition is split into three categories: native oyster, rock oyster and mussels. This year Lochnell Oysters won the native section, Isle of Barra Oysters topped the rock category and Inverlussa, from the Isle of Mull, were again chosen to have the best mussels.

John Hamilton of Lochnell Oysters said it was 'superb' to win, while Gerard MacDonald, from Barra Oysters, said: 'It is nice to know you are winning against people who are producing damn good stuff.' The pair were delighted to walk away with a commemorative plate each.

Lochaber councils fold due to lack of volunteers

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Four Lochaber community councils – Caol, Glenfinnan, Mallaig and Spean Bridge/Roy Bridge and Achnacarry – have failed to attract at least half the maximum membership needed to re-form.

They were among 16 community councils across The Highland Council area which will not be established. These also include Portree and Braes, Glendale, Uig and Watnash on Skye.

The next opportunity for nominations to be made to those community councils will be in February 2020.

The news follows the recent call for candidates who want to serve on the Highland community councils to come forward, which saw 120 councils attracting sufficient interest to allow them to form from noon tomorrow



(Friday). Twenty community councils received more nominations than their maximum membership. These included Ardgour, Dornie and District; Glenelg and Arnisdale; Kinlochleven; Plockton and West Ardnamurchan and elections will take place for these councils using a postal ballot.

Ballot papers will be posted out on Friday November 15 and must be returned by noon on Wednesday December 4.

MSP Kate Forbes has spoken of her disappointment that nine community councils in her Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency are to fold.

'Community councils are a critically important element of local democracy. They can bring together different views and represent communities. It is a shame to see so many community councils dissolv-

MSP Kate Forbes says she recognises being a community councillor is a difficult job.

ing, in part because of a lack of volunteers,' commented Ms Forbes.

'I recognise it is a difficult job, but it can make all the difference, particularly on issues like planning applications.

'I hope that even if certain community councils have not been able to amass the necessary members, they might be able to do so in the not-too-distant future.'

John Fotheringham, outgoing chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council – who was not standing for re-election – says a large part of the reason for so many community councils failing to attract enough nominations is down to how such bodies are treated by Highland Council.

'I am sure there were many reasons for their failure to attract volunteers, but our experience, if replicated across Lochaber, might explain why

some feel it isn't worth wasting our valuable time when paid senior officials and councillors clearly don't feel responding to correspondence from taxpayers and community councillors is part of their remit,' Mr Fotheringham told the Lochaber Times.

He went on to highlight a complaint which his community council lodged with Highland Council and only received a communication in reply last week – 102 days later.

'Today they had the audacity to elevate it to a Stage 2 Complaint giving them an additional 20 working days to reply,' said an angry Mr Fotheringham.

'This is not an isolated occurrence as we have found in the past that their complaints' procedure is not fit for purpose. They aspire to many lofty ideals such as localism but nothing changes and nothing will until someone takes responsibility for holding those that are paid by the taxpayer to account. We have tried but volunteers, however committed, are just ignored.'

Lochaber men in kilts help charity

Some of Lochaber's best looking kilts, modelled by muscular local sportsmen, can grace people's walls next year following the launch of the 'Lochaber Men in Kilts 2020 Visions in Tartan' charity calendar.

On sale for £5, the calendar was produced to raise funds for Lochaber Sensory Care, which helps people with hearing or sight difficulties and has regular outreach clinics in Ardnamurchan, Mallaig and Glencoe.

These will be greatly helped by money raised from the calendar. Everyone taking part in the cheerfully tongue-in-cheek calendar volunteered their services and print costs were covered by local businesses which generously sponsored each month so that all money from sales will go to the charity.

Helping to launch the calendar, 'Mr January' Alasdair Greens, who re-staged his photograph holding a calendar rather than glass of whisky in Ben Nevis Distillery, said: 'It was a great laugh getting my picture taken and I was happy to take part for



Alasdair Greens recreates his calendar pose. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

such a good cause. I would certainly do it again.'

Chairman of Lochaber Sensory Care, Iain Ferguson, who in his other role of professional photographer devised and shot the pictures, added: 'The kilt wearers braved different weathers, mainly rain and cold, as the calendar was shot over several months to match the seasons.

'I would like to thank

everyone who took part for being so professional during the individual sessions. It was all very light-hearted but also quite intense to get just the right shot. The guys were all absolutely brilliant.'

Calendars can be bought from the Lochaber Sensory Care office at Caol Shopping Centre or from The Highland Bookshop in Fort William High Street.



"The quality of the workmanship was excellent, they left the place clean and tidy every night and we thought it was extremely good value for money."



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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Lodge Locheil No 1200 will hold a centenary celebration in Lochaber High School on Saturday November 9. All brethren welcome. Ceremony starts at 1.30pm, with meal to follow. Evening ceillidh in Banavie Lodge at 7.30pm. All families and friends invited. Tickets and information from Colin Pinkett, 07484 627182, or Leslie Gow, 07919 236451.

People with electric bikes are invited to a group cycle starting at the community toilets in Kinlochleven at 10am on Saturday November 9. Robert McClymont has organised the event and hopes to repeat it on the second Saturday of every month. He can be contacted on 07787 811817.

Lochaber Sensory Care will hold an outreach clinic at Morvern Medical Practice, Lochaline, on Monday November 11 from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Lochaber Natural History Society's next talk is Dragonflies in Lochaber by Jon Mercer at the Ben Nevis Hotel on Monday November 11 at 7.30pm. A short annual general meeting will precede the meeting. Non-members £4.

The Leanachan Challenge cross country running race for high school pupils takes place on Thursday November 14. For more information, contact isabel@bosslochaber.co.uk

The next Lochaber Music For All concert takes place in Kilmallie Community centre on Saturday November 16 at 7.30pm. The evening will see Scotland's world class saxophonist Tommy Smith and pianist Brian Kellock perform jazz standards.

Lochaber Athletic Club's annual general meeting will take place on Sunday November 17 at 7.30pm at Lochaber Yacht Club, Fort William. Refreshments and log fire provided.

Friends of Nevis will hold an autumn Glen Nevis litter pick and Curling Ponds clear-up on Sunday November 17. Meet at 10.30am at Ben Nevis Highland Centre, at entrance to Glen Nevis.

Songs of Praise in Kilmallie Free Church, 7pm, on Friday November 29. A social evening of singing and music. Everyone welcome.

'Positive message' from Liberty on Fort plans

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Senior management at Liberty British Aluminum's site in Fort William have told Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) the company is still committed to its plan for a new alloy wheels plant.

Alistair Dodds, deputy chairman of the HIE board, and Carroll Buxton, interim chief executive of HIE, were in Lochaber for several days last week as part of the organisation's board meeting in Lochaber.

They visited the Liberty smelter site in Fort William, where the company plans to create around 400 new jobs at the alloy wheels plant, and met Brian King, director of Lochaber operations for Liberty and its sister GFG Alliance, SIMEC.

'Obviously their plans are



Carol Buxton and Alastair Dodds of HIE in Fort William last week. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

perhaps moving a bit more slowly than they would have hoped, but they remain very committed to the area,' said Ms Buxton. 'And they've increased employment at the plant since they've arrived - not by a huge number, 40, but

40 is still important. One significant thing they said to us was they have found it easier to attract skilled professional people to vacancies recently. That's a real plus.'

Mr Dodds added: 'The fact they have added 40 staff at

'They are talking about doing up estate houses and starting to invest in that. A lot of things were quite positive.'

this time is incredible. They are talking about doing up estate houses and starting to invest in that. A lot of things were quite positive.'

Mr Dodds, however, said Brexit, which is causing uncertainty for many businesses across Lochaber and the Highlands and islands, was

an issue for Liberty. 'One of their [Liberty] issues just now is Brexit and the uncertainty around it, which is the same as other businesses. Who would invest huge sums in something when you don't know the outcome?' said Mr Dodds.

Ms Buxton added: 'They showed us figures about the automotive industry which in recent years has had a downturn but they are still confident it is going to recover.'

'The messages they were giving to us is that they are still doing the planning and progressing with what they are intending to do and are committed to the project.'

'They gave us every indication they are progressing and are in discussions with major customers. In line with other developments, people are interested to see the outcome of Brexit, but they remain committed to the project.'

Big Learner Relay comes through Fort

It's the furthest north the relay for Children in Need has ever been and Lochaber driving instructors are leading the way.

Anyone who has been around Fort William, will have no doubt seen Jean O'Brien and others driving around in spotty cars.

Ms O'Brien has raised more than £800 through sponsored spots with all proceeds going to Children in Need.

The Fort William driving instructor will be leading the convoy of learner cars from the Ballachulish Hotel to The Premier Inn, Fort William, with one of her students driving the route.

She said: 'My pupil who is going to drive my car is Carina MacLean and she's very excited about being the lead driver for our stint.'

'People have been so generous. One gentleman from Derby stopped to talk to me down by the canal. He was here with his wife and he sponsored a spot as he always donates to Children in Need.'

'I am so excited and honoured to be part of a UK-wide experience. It feels great to be part of something starting so

far away in Land's End and it's been great getting to know new friends online through this experience.'

Volunteer relay organiser Amy Cullen is excited to be bringing the relay to John O'Groats on the northern tip of mainland Scotland.

She said: 'We have been to Scotland in previous years but this year is just a little more special. The relay began in Land's End on November 1, having already visited Northern Ireland and Jersey, but this year we are relaying further north than we have ever been.'

'We have driving instructors from across the UK joining us for this road trip and everyone is excited to see the amazing scenery Scotland has to offer.'

After covering Scotland, the relay will wind its way back to the National Space Centre in Leicester to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.

People can still sponsor a spot on Jean O'Brien's car by getting in contact through her Facebook page or text LAUNCH and the amount to 70085.

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Kinlochleven launches joint education campus

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Kinlochleven enjoyed the official launch of its joint three to 18 campus last week.

This has involved combining Kinlochleven nursery, primary and high school after months of work and will see the schools amalgamated under head teacher Rebecca Machin.

Pupils and staff from both schools were joined by Highland Council quality improvement manager Don Esson and primary school parent council chairwoman Pauline Byers for the official unveiling.

Central to the work over the last year has been the creation of an environment



based upon core values and what is known as an RRS approach: Responsible; Respected; Safe.

Both primary and secondary pupils were consulted on which words

they felt best exemplified what school was and should be, before voting for their top five. The survey was mainly conducted by young people from the primary school, who catalogued

the survey results. The winning five values were: Kind, Ambitious, Honest, Confident, Included.

These core values were then illustrated by an S3 art class under the guidance

of teacher Eilidh Stewart before being launched at a special assembly for the entire school from the nursery to S6. The values are now displayed throughout the school building serving as reminders and a steer for all members of the school community.

Mrs Machin said: 'As we said in the presentation quoting Jay Asher, 'You Can't Stop the Future'. We have worked hard to ensure that nursery, primary and secondary pupils have equity in their provision and so the schools will always have a depute at either end of the building and, knowing that these sector experts are in place, opens up the possibility of professional growth for any staff coming

in in the future. However, the only way to make a success of a three-18 model like this one is to make sure that all of the young people are consulted in the coming alterations and are encouraged to embrace its potential.

'We knew that we would need to be proactive and work hard to make sure that the young people were at the centre of all that we do.

'I feel they have done that and I can't stress how proud I am of the way they are taking to becoming one school. I'm so pleased to be working with our amazing young people and love the work they put into producing their core values. It truly points to a bright future for all of us.'

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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

The first cohort on the innovative new One Lochaber Leadership Programme will officially begin their tailor-made year-long programme during Lochaber Ideas Week, with the inaugural training day taking place on Wednesday November 20.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce created the bespoke training programme to meet the needs of local businesses in developing their workforce to meet the challenges of the future.

This exciting new programme, delivered by expert management trainers, Ethos Consulting, will take participants through a specially-structured training programme of seminars

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and one-to-one workshops, leading to an accredited leadership qualification from the Chartered Institute of Management.

As a special offer to local businesses during Ideas Week, we're inviting you to join the afternoon session of the first day of One Lochaber – come along to find out how to thrive in an uncertain business world with an interactive VUCA workshop.

VUCA stands for Volatile; Uncertain; Complex and Ambiguous.

We live in a world of fast change and information overload. To thrive companies must continuously adapt the products and services they offer.

But how can you prepare for a future you cannot predict? Come along to find ways to navigate this new business world – and find out a lot about yourself and your business in the process.

FREE event, Wednesday November 20, 2-5pm, Moorings Hotel. To book a place on the VUCA workshop or other Ideas Week events, visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk or call 01397 705765.



Councillor Andrew Baxter cuts the ribbon with Marion Smith and Helen Thompson from the Kinlochleven Community Trust.

Electric vehicle charge point opened in Kinlochleven

by Richard Mason
rmason@obantimes.co.uk

The Electric Village was buzzing with excitement for electric vehicles as a new charge point was opened by councillor Andrew Baxter on Saturday.

Installed and run by Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT), the charger is free to use until March 2020 and has two points for electric cars.

The event was marked with test drives of an electric car provided by Home Energy Scotland and electric bike rides from Off Beat Bikes.

Kinlochleven resident Councillor Baxter said the new facility was a great step in promoting electric vehicles in Lochaber.

He said: 'Many people are sceptical about the use of electric technology at the moment because the infrastructure is not available, particularly here in the Highlands.'

'It's really encouraging to see charging points coming to somewhere like Kinlochleven, which most people would consider quite remote.'

'I'm delighted that my own village is leading the way with having these points and I'm looking forward to other villages in my ward and across Lochaber following suit.'

'Like many people, the concern at the moment is the cost of electric cars, but it's a chicken and egg situation. Better infrastructure means more people will be buying and the cost to the consumer will come down.'

'I'm convinced that it won't be too long until electric vehicles become the norm in somewhere like the Highlands.'

Located beside the community toilets, the charger is part of KCT's green strategy and the money generated from it will go into further developments.

Delighted

Marion Smith, organiser of the event and development officer for KCT, said: 'We were delighted to receive a grant which enabled us to install the electric vehicle charging points. This development allows us to comply with our purposes, which include advancing environmental protection, promoting sustainable development and conserving the natural environment by providing environmental amenities for the community of Kinlochleven.'

Funding for the charge point was given to the trust by Transport Scotland, through a programme managed by the Energy Saving Trust. KCT is working to have provisions for campervans in the same

area to make it easier for people to stop in the village and dispose of chemical waste.

Home Energy Scotland provided a fully electric Hyundai Kona for people to test drive on the day, a car that can get 280 miles from one charge.

While electric cars are considered expensive compared to their petrol and diesel counterparts, a full charge costs less than half the equivalent in fuel.

There were also electric bikes provided by Off Beat Bikes, based in Fort William, which had a lot of interest throughout the day. The e-bikes provide an extra boost for riders, particularly when going up hills.

There are grants available from the UK government for buying electric cars and the Energy Saving Trust offers an interest-free loan of up to £6,000 for an e-bike.

Matthew Eastwood, head of transport in Scotland at Energy Saving Trust, said: 'Sales of plug-in vehicles have been increasing every year and we have no doubt that this trend will continue due to the substantial fuel cost savings that can be achieved.'

'Facilities like these will help strengthen the national network of charging points and are crucial in supporting the growing number of electric vehicle drivers in Scotland.'

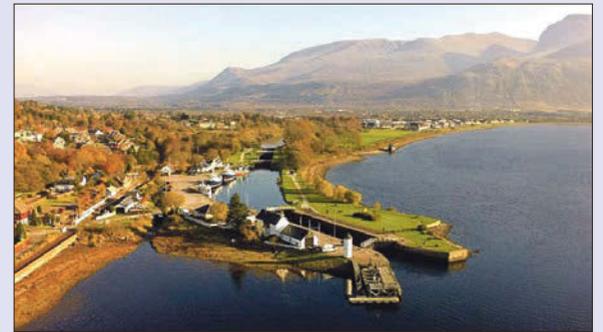
Brexit causing main concern among Lochaber businesses

Access to skilled labour, housing for workers, traffic congestion in and around Fort William particularly during the summer months, all overshadowed by the continuing uncertainty caused by Brexit, writes Mark Entwistle.

Those were the main concerns flagged up by Lochaber businesses to members of the board of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) during a visit to the region last week.

Alistair Dodds, deputy chairman of HIE, explained that board members were in Lochaber as part of a routine policy to hold board meetings outwith the organisation's base in Inverness.

'It's important to go round areas we are investing in, so yesterday (October 29) the board was down here and we usually take the opportunity to have a business breakfast, so we met quite a few local business representatives before the board



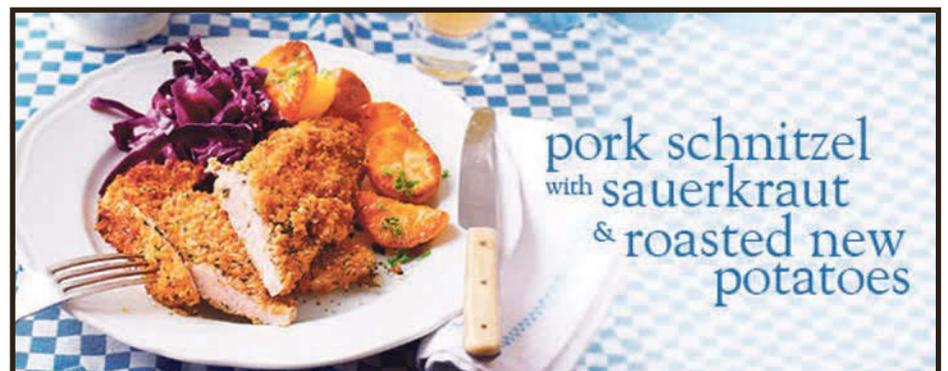
HIE senior figures visited Caol Regeneration where they discussed the Thomas Telford marina project.

meeting,' said Mr Dodds. 'Today we've been round various businesses we have invested in in the past or are considering investing in. It is really important board and senior management see what we are investing in.'

HIE interim chief executive Carroll Buxton added: 'It is about getting a feeling for businesses and the challenges they are facing. Because, while some challenges are similar across the Highlands and islands,

there are some very specific local area issues and it was really good to hear those from people experiencing them daily.'

'We had a brief, but brilliant, visit to Caol Regeneration and they talked us through the Thomas Telford marina project. They are doing a fantastic job. Community development is vital for HIE, so seeing a mix of community and business projects is important.'



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- Dinner:** Pork Schnitzel with sauerkraut & roasted new potatoes: Take 8 tender pork escalope (visible fat removed) and generously coat in herb infused breadcrumbs, make a creamy sauerkraut dressing and roast the new potatoes with a low cal spray. Serve the schnitzels with the sauerkraut and potatoes, sprinkled with parsley and black pepper. Yum!
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Man assaulted police officer

A man who admitted assaulting a police officer has been ordered to carry out 160 hours of community service.

Igor Sliwinski, 23, who currently has no fixed address, appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Tuesday after being in custody since the assault. It was revealed he had been in breach of a previous bail agreement where he had to be in an agreed residence from 7pm to 7am every night.

The court heard that at 11.30pm on September 21, Sliwinski was asked to dispose of a bottle on Fort William High Street by police officers but he refused and ran towards Viewforth car park. He was taken back on to the High Street by the officers for better light and benefit of CCTV. Punching, kicking and spitting on PC Robert Morrison, Sliwinski was taken into custody.

Sheriff Chris Dickson said: 'This was an extremely serious offence. I could serve you a custodial sentence, but considering the sentence you have already served I will give you a community payback order of 160 hours to be completed over 12 months.'

Parishioners' millions of steps for HIV awareness

Members of two Lochaber churches walked a staggering 4,000,000 steps in a month to raise awareness of HIV.

The group from Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church in Fort William and Kilmonivaig Church near Spean Bridge wore red laces in their shoes and boots as they went about their daily lives to support the Church of Scotland HIV Programme's All Tied Up campaign.

One man, who had a liver transplant 20 years ago, walked 93,598 steps, while Trevor Jones walked around 700,000 steps along the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route in Portugal.

Debbie Brown did 464,853 steps simply going about her work in a care home.

The 13-strong group, which also included a postman and a health worker, raised £590 for the HIV Programme,



Walking to raise awareness of HIV are, from left: Andy Muirhead, Evelyn MacKay, Sheana Fraser, Trevor Jones, Jan Brown, the Reverend Richard Baxter, David Hamilton, Morag Muirhead and Alister MacDonald.

which has amassed around £1.8 million over the last 17 years. It supports 16 projects in 13 countries, including Scotland, by helping to provide nutritional support, home-based care, palliative

care, community-based orphan care, awareness raising and education programmes.

There are an estimated 5,881 people living with HIV in Scotland. Reverend Richard Baxter, minister of Duncansburgh MacIntosh linked with Kilmonivaig Church, said: 'My 300,000 steps were at the lower end of the scale. I was amazed at the number of people who got involved. Because so many HIV

and Aids projects help with nutrition to ensure anti-retroviral drugs are effective and infections fought off, we also used this as our Harvest Project.

'I'm delighted at the level of support from the congregation for this important work.'

Last year, Mr Baxter took an HIV mouth swab test to highlight the need to overcome stigma as a barrier to saving lives.

He said the self-testing kit, which has been made available in parts of Africa including Malawi, could help stop new infections and unnecessary deaths.

Global new HIV infections have declined by just 18 per cent in the past seven years, from 2.2 million in 2010 to 1.8 million in 2017.

Although this is nearly half the number of new infections compared to the 3.4 million peak in 1996, the decline is not quick enough to reach the target of fewer than 500,000 by 2020.

Carol Finlay of the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council, who has responsibility for the HIV Programme, thanked all the participants for supporting the All Tied Up campaign, which has so far generated around £4,000.

'This phenomenal effort by church members has not just helped raise money to support partner projects in Scotland and overseas but has helped raise awareness of the continuing global issue of HIV and the impact on individuals, families and communities,' she said.

Native oysters could boost economy and create jobs

Restoring native oyster beds in Scotland could give the UK economy a £3.5m boost and create jobs, a report from the James Hutton Institute has estimated.

European native oysters were almost fished to extinction in the past and in recent years the commercial sector has chosen the non-native Pacific oyster due to it being faster growing.

The report suggests oyster beds on the west coast of Scotland could bring people to areas that have been depopulated due to migration and struggles with an ageing demographic.

Caol and Mallaig councillors Allan Henderson and Denis Rixson support the idea, but would need to consult on it further.

Councillor Rixson said: 'In principle I love the idea of restoring native species and providing local employment but would stress the

importance of working with all stakeholders - particularly the fishing industry. Fishermen are increasingly constrained and regulated. I would like them to be consulted throughout the process so that the end result is a win-win for everyone and not just one sector.'

Councillor Henderson said: 'Like salmon farming, this has to be carefully considered through the planning process, as there would be displacement.'

The Dornoch Environmental Enhancement Project (DEEP) has established 40 hectares of native oyster reef off the coast of Dornoch with measurable economic benefits to small and medium enterprises.

The report analysed the experiences of DEEP and discussed how the production of disease-free native oysters could boost Scotland's produce offering and supply

into the growing European restoration market.

Report author Hazel Allen said: 'The DEEP approach and consideration of oyster restoration has provided complementary opportunities to enhance the delivery of policies set by the Scottish Government such as Aquaculture Growth to 2030, Ambition 2030, the Hydro Nation Strategy and Zero Waste strategies and the water quality environmental objectives set by SEPA.'

'This report identifies several actions to realise the benefits and opportunities arising from a potential Scottish native oyster aquaculture industry. For that, we'll need to promote closer policy integration and working between government agencies and delivery bodies to develop a collective policy approach for the integration of ecosystem benefits and their multiple values.'



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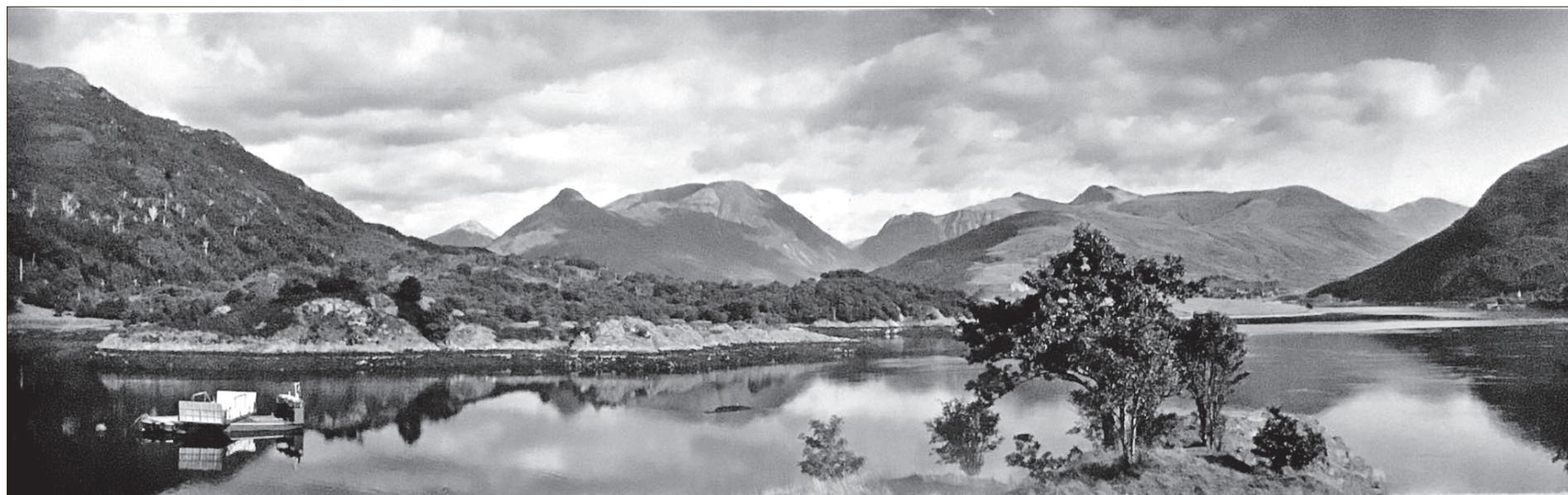
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Loch Leven and the ferry. Photographs: From the Andy Paton Collection gifted to the Lochaber Local History Society.

Rare views of Lochaber online for first time

A rare collection of panoramic images of Lochaber has been made available for public viewing online for the first time, writes Kirsteen Bell.

Fort William photographer Andy Paton created the pioneering landscapes in the 1970s using a special rotating lens that created sweeping images of Fort William and the surrounding areas, providing a unique perspective on Lochaber.

Mr Paton's 1975 photographic tour Highland Panorama, which was displayed at the Masonic Hall in Fort William, was described by then journalist R A Daw as 'one of the most exciting visual experiences'.

Though wide-screen images are commonplace to the present-day reader, in the mid-1970s Mr Paton's panoramic images, projected to a width of 20 feet, were breathtaking.

Images by his contemporaries were typically produced in standard 35mm, so were a third of the size. Mr Daw wrote that the audience's wonder came from Mr Paton's ability to 'flood the hall with the forests of Loch Lochy'.

Today the images are equally captivating. Lochaber Local History Society was recently gifted photographic prints of some of Mr Paton's panoramas.

Bill Cameron from the society created digital images and made them available to

everyone on its Facebook page.

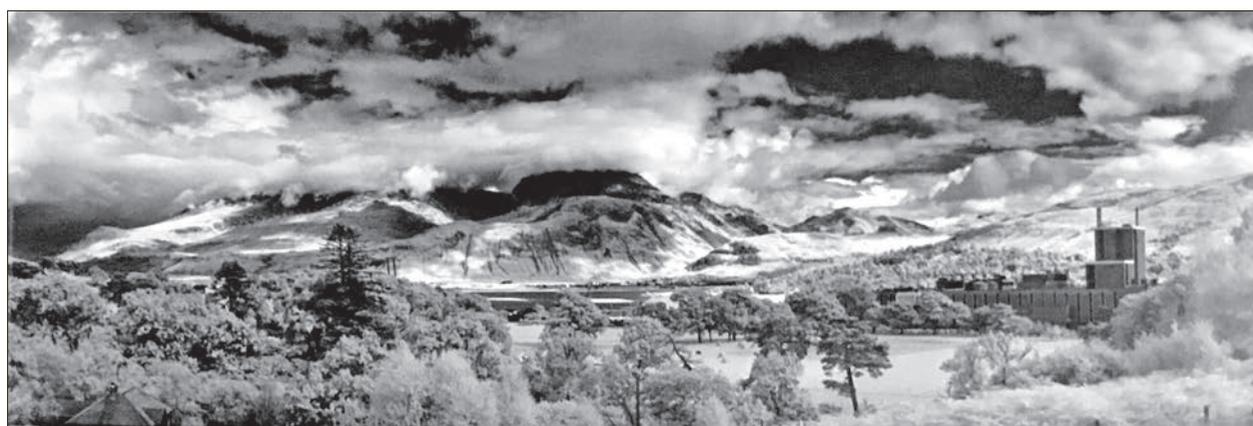
Images include Loch Leven and the ferry, Ben Nevis and the pulp mill, demolished in 2008, Ardgour and the Corran Narrows, a train crossing the Glenfinnan viaduct and Loch Linnhe from the still-new houses at the Plantation.

Mr Paton was no stranger to panoramic mountain views. He spent his summers working as a mountain guide for the Holiday Fellowship in Ballachulish where he met his wife, Grace Paton, who worked as the Fort William and district correspondent for The Oban Times.

The couple lived for a while on the shorefront at Caol, where neighbours were sometimes surprised to find images appearing on their bedroom walls as Mr Paton tested his projector, capable of producing 64-foot-wide images, on the exterior walls of the houses.

The collection of Mr Paton's panoramic slides was gifted to the West Highland Museum in 2015 by Ian Paton, Mr Paton's son, along with other material including Mr Paton's writing on the Highland landscape for The Scots Magazine.

Cataloguing of the museum's collection has begun and it hopes that, once complete, there may be slides that can be shared with other



A view of the pulp mill and Ben Nevis as seen from Corpach.

museums whose landscapes also feature in Mr Paton's extensive work.

However, the most recent volunteers have finished for the season and Museum Curator Vanessa Martin said that she would be keen to hear from anyone who would like to help continue the work.

'You don't need a degree in history to volunteer, just an interest is great. Local people usually know the area very well so their input can be invaluable,' she said.

Speaking about the photographic prints currently held by the history society, Mr Cameron added: 'There are a number of recognisable Lochaber landscapes, but there are also some more unusual views that take some pinpointing, such as the one taken in Glenachulish.'

Mr Cameron said the society hoped to eventually unite the images with the collection of slides held at the museum, ensuring future generations could continue to enjoy these exceptional records of Lochaber's changing landscape.

All photographs are from the Andy Paton Collection gifted to Lochaber Local History Society.

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Walkers step out on their eight-mile walk to raise money to buy equipment for HeartSmart. Photograph Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

HeartSmart walkers step in with £1,000

Funds of HeartSmart Lochaber, the Caol-based support group for people with a heart condition, have been boosted by £1,000 raised through an eight-mile sponsored walk along the banks of the Caledonian Canal.

Group members, family, friends and Bunty, a four-year-old Border Terrier, met at Neptune's Staircase, Banavie, on Saturday, before stepping out on the challenging hike.

After their arduous exer-

cise, the group gathered for refreshments in the Moorings Hotel.

Group chairman Sammy Cameron said: 'We were fortunate with the good break in the weather that made for an enjoyable walk. The sponsor money will be used to buy exercise equipment including aerobic stepper cardio fitness stepping board platforms and risers.'

Mr Cameron added: 'Thanks go to everyone who

sponsored us, particularly seven-year-olds Maisie and Katie who completed the eight-mile course effortlessly. Special thank to Ceri Maclean for all the time and effort she put in to organising the event. It was a huge success.'

HeartSmart Lochaber was founded by the late Dr Gavin Brown in 1993. It meets every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in Caol Community Centre. New members can be sure of a warm welcome.

Shorter days increases deer risk on Highland roads

Motorists are being warned of the increased risk of collisions between deer and vehicles at this time of year.

With night falling earlier, deer are more likely to venture on to roadside grass verges as they browse and feed.

In response to the potential risk, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), in conjunc-

tion with Transport Scotland and Traffic Scotland, is placing warning messages on electronic road signs.

Expect to see these messages on the A9, A87, A82, A85 and the A835 until Friday November 22.

SNH deer management officer Jamie Hammond said: 'From October to December,

deer are more likely to be on the road as they move down to lower ground to find food and shelter.

'The highest risk is from sunset to midnight and shortly before and after sunrise. Particularly in these peak times, we advise motorists to slow down and watch for deer crossing roads.

'If you are driving near woods, deer can suddenly appear before you have time to brake.

'If you do hit a deer, report it to the police, even if you are uninjured and your car isn't damaged, as the deer may be fatally injured and suffering.'

To avoid collisions, motorists are advised not to swerve

to avoid the deer but brake sharply, if safe to do so, and allow the animals to pass.

After dark, use full-beam lights when there is no on-coming traffic, as this will illuminate the eyes of deer. Drivers should make sure they dim their lights when they see a deer so it is not startled.



Signs like this will warn motorists to look out for deer. Photograph: SNH-3

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MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



A letter in last week's paper brought to mind a poem my mother wrote many years ago which is published in her book *Maraiche nan Cuanan*.

I expect Andrew Green's opinions on crofting to have attracted some response on the letters page this week and rather than delve into the subject myself, I will refer readers to the poem below.

Crofting has underpinned the existence of people in the Highlands and Islands since it first came into being in the late 1800s. If crofters in the 1880s kept '...their heads down and their mouths shut...' the population of the Highlands and Islands would not exist today.

Making such derogatory and sweeping comments about an industry that is so deeply ingrained in the identity and livelihood of a population is an example of the worst of human traits.

Wherever we are in the world, we are all strangers, but respect for people and place should be shown.

An Coileach Coigreach - Flòraidh NicPhàil

Ars' an coileach coigreach:

'Is e seo mo dhùnan

Ged nach d' rinn mi ach tigh'nn thuige

Chionn began ùine.

Chan eil ùidh agamsa nur cleachdaidhean

Nur cànan no nur dualchas.

Deanaibh mar a fhreagras ormsa's

Spaideil bhios mo ghiùlan!

Said the alien cockerel:

'This is my dung heap

Although I have only arrived

A short while ago.

I have no interest in your customs

Your language or your traditions.

Do what suits me and Smart indeed will be my bearing!

'Nach b' e dà lath' e,' ars' an t-seann chearc-ghuir

'S na h-itean aice molach, dùbhrach.

'B' eòlach mis' air coilich neartmhor -

Seòid nach leigeadh leas bhi bùirich,

Bha modhail, sìobhalta, neo-shanntach

'S a rinn beòshlaint shna-sail, thùrail

Ge be'n dùthaich anns an robh 'ad

Nedaich iad nar measg gu sùrdail.

'Changing times,' said the old clucking hen,

Feathers fluffed up and threatening.

'I have known powerful cockerels,

Fine fellows who had no need to boast,

Who were polite, civil and not greedy,

Who earned a good sensible living.

No matter where they came from -

They settled among us happily.

'S bochd an aire mar a thachras

Anns an leithid seo de dh' àite

Isean cuthaig anns an nead

Gun ghuth aig' ach a bhith mi-chàileil.

Sgaoileadh mi-ghean is droch amharas,

Aineòlas gabhail làmh an àirde -

Dean do ghairm, a choilich choigrich

'S tu tha airigh air mo thàir-sa!

It's a great pity what can happen

In places such as this:

A cuckoo's chick in the nest

Whose main intent is to be unpleasant

Spreads unrest and suspicion

Based on its deep ignorance.

Crow, alien cockerel, You are only worthy of my contempt!



Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Lane, centre, receives his award. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Fort Legion branch honours long-serving stalwart

The Fort William and District Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland recently presented Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Lane MBE with one of the organisation's top awards in recognition of his outstanding efforts in supporting its work.

Branch chairman Hugh MacInnes presented the Area Certificate of Merit award,

delivering an accompanying citation which lauded Lieutenant Colonel Lane as a 'stalwart' member of the Legion for 10 years, who has given 'outstanding and selfless loyalty and dedication to our branch and to the RBLs for the whole of that time'.

During this period, Lieutenant Colonel Lane held each of the key appointments

within the branch and excelled in all of them.

At area level he has been area vice chairman, area welfare co-ordinator and area sports convenor.

He is currently a member of the area executive committee and has served as area representative on what was the national executive committee.

One of his many objectives has been to keep the Fort William and District Branch, and RBLs, in the public eye and to take a struggling branch from the brink of closure to the success it is today.

He introduced the branch newsletter and was the driving force behind the setting up and running of the branch website.

Author heads home for evening of crime

To celebrate the publication of *Thicker Than Water*, his second, much-anticipated venture into the world of fictional crime writing under the pseudonym JD Kirk, Fort William author Barry Hutchison will appear at The Highland Bookshop next week along with Perthshire based true-crime author Mark Bridgeman.

Hutchison will kick things off at 7pm on Thursday November 14 with a reading from his debut crime novel, the Lochaber-set *A Litter of Bones*. He will then take the audience on a whirlwind recap of a writing career that includes horror movies to *The Beano* and explain why he has now turned his attention to Highland-set murder mysteries.

Fans of his JD Kirk books will also be treated to a sneak peek of the fourth book, *Bloody and Treachery*, which is published in December.

Finally, following the runaway success of his recent book featuring a series of crime stories from Highland

Perthshire's past, author Mark Bridgeman is writing a sequel.

This time he is turning his attention to Lochaber and intends to open up some of the area's turbulent history.

On the night, he will be looking to gather interesting local stories, based on historical crimes and mysterious occurrences in the area, and will also give the audience a chance to sit on the jury and reach a verdict on a real-life murder trial.

Bridgeman will be reading from his previously unpublished account of a gruesome killing that took place 70 years ago in Highland Perthshire covering the prosecution and defence followed by audience discussion on the case and the verdict.

Tickets for the event, priced £5, are available from The Highland Bookshop and Eventbrite.

GET INVOLVED
email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber ready to mark Remembrance Day 2019

Remembrance day services will be held across Lochaber this Sunday.

The Fort William Remembrance Day Parade will start at 10.30am on Sunday when units taking part forming up in Viewforth Car Park.

The parade will march off at 10.50am and head for the town's war memorial, with wreath-bearers forming up at 10.56am.

A bugler will sound Last Post at 10.59am and the Colour party will lower the

Colours before the two-minute silence which will be signalled by the firing of the gun at 11am.

After this a piper will play *The Lament* followed by the bugler sounding *Reveille*.

A reading and prayer by the presiding minister will follow, after which wreaths will be laid and a church service will be held.

Later in the day the service will be held at the Commando Memorial, Spean Bridge, at 3pm.

Organisations taking part

will muster at 2.45pm at the lay-by on the south side of the memorial and at 2.50pm will march northwards to the memorial using the old Gairloch Road.

If communities around Lochaber send in a report from their Remembrance Day services, with details of who laid wreaths, ministers' names and a photograph, the Lochaber Times will publish these as part of its Remembrance Day coverage next week.



People turned out to pay their respects to the fallen at Fort William war Memorial on Remembrance Day last year.

OFFERS & competitions

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In which Scottish town is Baxters Highland Village located?

The prize is a Baxters Taste of Speyside Hamper. Over 18s only, no cash alternative. Closing date 10 December 2019.

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 10 December 2019. Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Myx Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

LT

Piping society revives recitals

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Lewis and Harris Piping Society is reviving its programme of recitals over the winter, beginning with a performance from Callum Beaumont in Stornoway on Saturday November 9.

Acclaimed piper Callum, who lives in Dollar, Clackmannanshire, and tutors piping students at the prestigious Dollar Academy, has won some of the most famous competitions in the world of piping including the Clasp at the Northern Meetings, two Gold Medals, the Silver Chanter and an overall win at the Lewis and Harris Piping Society's Pipe Major Donald Macleod Memorial Competition.

As a tutor, Callum has been invited to teach around the world and the piping society is delighted he has agreed to give



Callum Beaumont plays at Dunvegan Castle.

workshops during the day of his recital in Stornoway, which takes place in the Caladh Hotel at 7.30pm.

Tickets for the recital are £10, with concessions available, and can be bought at the door.

Dr John Smith, chairman of the Lewis and Harris Piping Society, said: 'For many

years, the piping society held anything up to six recitals a year, inviting the best pipers in Scotland.

'The recitals were initially held in the Royal Hotel and latterly the Royal British Legion Club but for the past few years it has proved a bit beyond their means to bring good pipers to

Stornoway to demonstrate to the youth the standard they should be aspiring to.

'But thanks to a very generous donation from a private individual, the society plans to organise perhaps up to four recitals over the next few months.'

He added: 'The society has also decided that, since we are bringing top class pipers to Stornoway, we should take maximum advantage of their skills and Callum will be holding a workshop for the junior players on the Saturday at 10am and then doing a session with the Lewis Pipe Band at 2.30pm.'

Callum said it was 'fantastic' that the society was reviving its programme of recitals and added: 'I think it's needed in many ways and not just in Stornoway.'

'It's a great tradition that we have.'

Call for ferry lessons to be learned by CalMac

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has called on the Scottish Government and CalMac to conduct a 'lessons learned' exercise around this year's Stornoway and Barra dry dock replacement, to ensure more successful planning and deployment in future.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's chairman of transportation and infrastructure Councillor Uisdean Robertson said: 'The annual dry dock programme for major CalMac ferries is again having a profoundly negative impact on communities across the Western Isles.'

'Perhaps if there was more island input into the planning and decision making, there would be a better understanding of how the lack of proper planning and deployment adversely affects life in these islands.'

'CalMac has deployed MV Isle of Lewis and MV Hebridean Isles to the Stornoway route with the latter designated for freight services.'

'Despite this being the route with the highest freight volume on the network, MV

Hebridean Isles' freight carrying capacity is heavily restricted in weight terms, meaning it can only carry a partially loaded vehicle deck.

'In addition, the performance of the Isle of Arran in inclement weather on the Barra route, which is the longest and most exposed route in the network, has been poor in previous deployments for relief cover in the winter.'

'We understand that neither the MV Isle of Arran or MV Hebridean Isles can be used on the seasonally quieter route to Coll and Tiree due to previous problems berthing MV Hebridean Isles.'

'Instead of fixing the issue, a fleet - which is already stretched too thin and has seen only two new major ferries added since 2001 - loses further flexibility by removing appropriately-sized vessels from routes which they should be serving.'

'This only passes problems on to routes that require vessels with larger capacity, better facilities and better seagoing performance.'

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Get your glad rags on and join us to celebrate success and opportunities for Lochaber business at our annual Ideas Week Gala Dinner! We are delighted to welcome inspirational entrepreneur Mike Stevenson as our after-dinner speaker at this year's event, which is hosted by Riddell Graham, Director of Industry and Destination Development at VisitScotland.

Always a great night, don't miss this chance to enjoy a delicious dinner with fantastic entertainment. Everyone is welcome and tickets can be purchased individually or in tables of eight.

Our after-dinner speaker, Mike Stevenson, is a tour de force who surprises and delights in equal measure. His own journey from homelessness to award-winning entrepreneur is filled with remarkable people and events. His stories amaze and shock, his humour captivates and his insights will inspire.

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Hospital's friends shored up by Point & Sandwick's help

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

An island charity which provides goods and services to people in hospital and care homes to make their experience a more comfortable one has had its mission of kindness secured by community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust.

Western Isles Hospital League of Friends provides resources to Western Isles Hospital and local authority residential care homes Dun Eisdean and Dun Berisay, with its prime objective being to provide a level of care in hospital and beyond, separate to what the NHS provides.

It runs the tea bar in the hospital in Stornoway and uses the proceeds to buy goods which will make hospital stays more comfortable for patients and enhance their well-being.

These range from televisions,



radios, table-top fridges and microwaves for hospital wards to the mobile library service providing a range of books and subscription magazines, to the admission packs containing items such as toiletries for

patients unable to access their own belongings.

It also provides Christmas gifts to the wards, birthday gifts and cards for long-stay residents, gave a contribution towards a memorial garden,

does bus runs and ceilidhs over the winter and has provided packs of dementia resources to the care homes.

Although the charity also raises money through raffles, bag packing and collecting

League of Friends chairman Roy Cameron, volunteer Mary Macleod and Gordon Mackay, League of Friends director and Point and Sandwick Trust board member.

Photograph: Sandie Maciver of SandiePhotos

cans, most of its funds come from the tea bar, which is open for breakfast, lunch and snacks for patients, visitors and staff.

But disaster struck when the chiller cabinet broke down, severely restricting the food the organisation was able to offer and thereby hitting its income.

Point and Sandwick Trust came to the rescue, however, with a donation of nearly £2,200 which allowed the charity to buy a new chiller and resume normal service once again.

Western Isles Hospital League of Friends chairman Roy Cameron said: 'It has a

huge impact if we can't catch all the customers that we can because we've got to run our payroll costs and then have something left over, which is distributed.'

The suggestion to ask Point and Sandwick Trust for help came from League of Friends director Gordon Mackay, who is also a board member with the community wind farm charity.

Mr Mackay said: 'On behalf of Point and Sandwick Trust, we are delighted to be giving the League of Friends money for the purchase of new equipment within the tea bar at the Western Isles Hospital.'

'The League of Friends provides such a vital service with the tea bar which assists families of patients, patients themselves and even the employees of the hospital.'

'Yet again the money is being put to good use to benefit the wider community.'



The charter agreement was signed by comhairle chief executive Malcolm Burr, left, SDS chairman Frank Mitchell, right, and Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP.

Charter to boost employability and skills

Apprentices in the Western Isles will be among the first in Scotland to be supported in the process of accessing low-cost housing as part of a new initiative to encourage young people to stay in the islands.

The innovative commitment is a key feature of a new charter agreement which was signed last week between Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) at the Convention of the Highlands and Islands in Inverness.

The charter is a first-of-its-kind agreement between a local authority and SDS, outlining a joint commitment

to developing, delivering and monitoring services to ensure the needs of the people in the Western Isles are met in terms of education, employment and skills for the benefit of the islands' economy.

The agreement was signed by SDS chairman Frank Mitchell and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar chief executive Malcolm Burr, with Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands Paul Wheelhouse MSP. Mr Burr said: 'This charter will deliver a unified approach and will support young people throughout the Western Isles on behalf of

the local authority, Scottish Government and SDS, and in full collaboration with local providers.

'As part of the agreement, the comhairle has committed to providing low-cost housing for apprentices as a means to encourage young people to stay in the islands.'

'The comhairle is committed to reversing depopulation and this agreement, through the combined offer of an apprenticeship and housing, will enable young people to earn, learn and live in the islands, providing them with further opportunity to stay in their own communities.'

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Your community council needs you!

This week we report that four Lochaber community councils are to fold due to a lack of people agreeing to put themselves forward for nomination.

Community councils in Caol, Glenfinnan, Mallaig and Spean Bridge/Roy Bridge and Achnacarry, plus Portree and Braes, Glendale, Uig and Waternish, on Skye, have failed to attract the requisite number of nominations, so as such will be unable to operate.

That is a huge shame, and a blow for these local communities.

There is no doubt it is a difficult job, with volunteers putting in hundreds of hours, but without the opportunities community councils offer to bring together different views and represent communities, and without the community councillors defending our corner, pushing against often closed doors to ensure we are not forgotten about in Inverness, we would be potentially worse off.

The next opportunity for nominations to be made to those community councils will be in February 2020. Don't leave it to someone else, think about getting involved.

Remembrance Day

This weekend will again see thousands of people across our region gather for Remembrance Day services, as we pay our respects to all those men and women who have given their lives in the service of their country.

In Fort William on Sunday at 10am, the town parade will set off to be followed by the remembrance service. The Commando Parade and service at Spean Bridge Commando Memorial will take place at 2.30pm.

We encourage everyone who is able to attend a service in their area.

Help required to trace family history

I am researching my mother's side of the family. She was a McNevin, formerly spelled MacNevin.

I think that my third great-grandfather was Hector McNevin, born June 23, 1799. He married Catherine McLean, born 1796, of Grimisary, Isle of Coll, on March 31, 1818. They emigrated to Prince Edward Island, Canada, in 1821.

I think Hector's father was Alexander McNevin, born circa 1770, on the Isle of Mull and married to Mary McDougal.

I am looking to connect the dots between the Canadian generations and the Scottish ancestors. I would appreciate any information that would help me in my quest.

Betty Tattersall,
Nova Scotia, Canada.
eatattersall@yahoo.com

Cyclists should make sure they are visible

We are now into gloomier conditions and on occasions a low sun casts long shadows on our roads.

I have advice for some cyclists. It is for those who venture on to the highways wearing black hats, black jackets, black trousers, black shoes, carrying black bags and riding their black bikes.

Wear clothes that enhance your visibility, please.

Earlier this year, in such conditions, I passed such a cyclist on my way into Oban. He was just starting on the incline out of Kilmore so the black tarmac was his background.

It was his moving right foot on the pedal I noticed. At first I thought it was a dog on the road until my headlights picked him up.

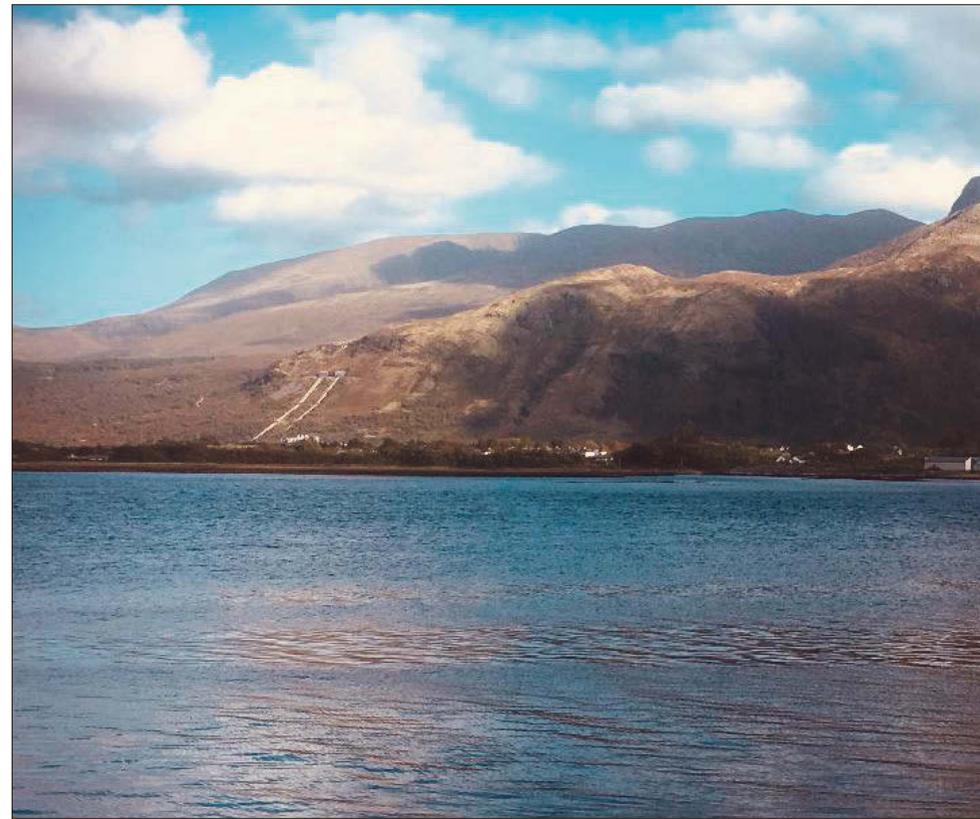
Tom Cullen, Dunskeig, Ardfern.

Recycle bins needed in Oban town centre

Some months ago I bought (breaded) fish'n'chips from a stall on the pier and very nice it was too. I did give the owner a bit of a hard time for serving it up to me on a polystyrene plate. He showed me the paper plates he had ready to start using.

He also told me that whilst he was preparing to do his bit, the Oban council would not

YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these each week.
If you have a photograph you would

like to see published here, send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Alternatively, hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial

provide bins to separate out recyclables from non - recyclables. You can argue that he could provide said bins but he pays his vendor taxes covering this.

I had hoped that, six months later, Oban council would have implemented recycling bins. Yet they haven't. I see people putting drink cans into the general rubbish bins (the only option). Embarrassing, isn't it that this country, supposed to be preparing to show the rest of the UK how forward thinking we are, can't even keep up.

Lieb Swan, Oban.

Advice on crofting

In response to Andrew Green's extraordinary letter in last week's issue criticising crofters and their way of life, it is obvious he must have some expertise in agricultural techniques.

Perhaps he could be encouraged to share and advise crofters as to which 'modern agricultural methods' he would recommend to improve land management on the average croft.

Andy Thornton
Ballachulish.



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DISTRICT NEWS

WESTERN ISLES

The news that funding has been made available to tag bluefin tuna in the Hebrides has been welcomed.

Bluefin tuna have been seen in increasing numbers around the Hebrides, but Scotland was not included in the previous tagging scheme.

The government has been working with fishermen in Harris to have a catch and release scheme similar to that in operation in Donegal, Ireland, which would allow development of this type of angling.

The European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) has approved money for bluefin tuna tagging.

TOBERMORY

The dates have been set for this year's Tobermory Christmas Producers' Markets. The first of the two events will be on Saturday November 23, noon-3pm in Aros Hall. The second market will be held on Saturday December 21 and will also run from noon-3pm in the Aros Hall.

There will be more than 30 stalls to help people fill their Christmas stockings and larders.

PLOCKTON

Plockton and District Community Council held its second last meeting of its four-year term in Plockton hall on October 7 when among the items discussed were the following:

■ 14 Harbour Street: The housing manager of Highland Council has written to the CC saying it has no intention of selling this house but will keep it for letting along with the janitor's house at the high school.

■ Roads update: Councillor Biz Campbell told the meeting that the road at Strathy and the white lines in the village would be done before the end of the year.

■ Hydro electric: Roddy Macpherson told the meeting that hydro poles between the Plockton Inn and Frithard Road were to be renewed.

Work will start on November 11 for three to four weeks involving some road closures and short power



Aberdeen Gaelic Choir, which has members from Oban and the Highlands and islands, had a successful Royal National Mod 2019. The choir won Friday's puirt-a-beul, lifting The Greenock Gaelic Choir Cup and the John Macleod Carloway and Edinburgh Memorial Trophy for the highest Gaelic marks. Aberdeen are the first recipients of the bowl, named after the former president of An Comunn Gàidhealach, John MacLeod.

outages. This will be well advertised locally.

■ Recent deaths with local connections and locally include Donald Macrae, Dingwall; John Matheson, Rosyth; Iain Macgregor, Kyle; Eddie Townend, Plockton and Jean Tuach, Sallachy. Sympathy was expressed to sorrowing relatives.

■ The final meeting of the community council will be on November 11. There were nine applicants for the seven-seat new council, so an election is required.

■ Kate Havard, Plockton's postmistress, celebrated her 80th birthday on October 5, with a party for her friends on the seal trip boat and afterwards in the Plockton Hotel.

■ On October 25 at a ceremony in Inverness Town House, Morag MacKenzie from Duirnish, was presented with the President's Award for doing door-to-door poppy appeal collections for more than 50 years.

President of Poppy Scotland, Sir Alistair Irwin, made the presentation. Morag started when she was 12 (later only adults could go round the doors), collecting in Duirnish, Achnandarach and Duncraig.

Charlie Macrae, local convener for 31 years prior to retirement last

year, put Morag forward for the top award saying she was one of the most conscientious collectors with her tin, always collecting the most and she had collected thousands of pounds in her 50 years.

Kathleen Macrae and Pat Macrae received 20-year awards and Joanna Maclean and Teenie Talbot from Drumbuie received their 10-year awards.

■ Last Thursday saw the first official Café Bridge event in Scotland taking place in Plockton. It was hosted by the Kyle of Lochalsh Bridge Club and saw participants coming from all over Scotland – Glasgow, Dundee, Inverness, Montrose, Granton-on-Spey and, Aberlour as well as Skye and Lochalsh – with a 10-man cohort from London.

Café Bridge is very popular on the continent and has a strong following in London and the South East. It takes duplicate bridge into the community with players moving and playing in multiple cafés and restaurants in a location.

Thursday saw five venues in Plockton hosting 84 players, with money raised from this event either from entrance fees or the raffle – which had prizes generously donated by individuals, businesses

and three of Skye's distilleries – will benefit Skye charity Rag Tag Textile, which supports mental health in the community.

ARISAIG

Arisaig Eco Project's Sewing Bee kicked off on Wednesday October 30 and will be running until November 27.

Every Wednesday from 7.30pm in the Land, Sea and Island Centre, the bee is for anyone doing a bit of sewing. For those new to sewing or who need a bit of help, volunteers can show how to repair, either by hand or with a sewing machine.

Just handful of people attended the evening on October 30 but it gave them plenty of time to chat, get some mending done and complete some stitching on a patchwork quilt.

LOCHABER

Of the 13 BT telephone boxes left in Lochaber, residents are objecting to seven of them being removed, with a bid to adopt the one in Glenfinnan.

The objections were in response to a nationwide proposal to get rid of 650 phone boxes that see little or no use, including 110 in the Highlands.

Proximity to long walking routes, residents who lack mobile phones, and patchy or non-existent mobile coverage were cited as reasons for wishing to keep the boxes.

Five objections were received for the box in Morar, Mallaig, as it was the only payphone within three miles in an area that is occasionally cut off by snow and flooding, and large vehicles have been known to go off the road. Objections were also received in connection to phone boxes in Spean Bridge, Kinlochleven, Roy Bridge, Kilchoan and Fort Augustus. The community in Glenfinnan hopes to adopt its phone box.

There was no objections to the removal of kiosks in Fort William.

Highland Council said: 'On November 7, members of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee will be asked to consider and agree a response to BT.'

The finalised response must be submitted to BT by November 13, and will be published on Highland Council's website. If BT disagrees with any of the objections, it will ask to formally review them with the council, and Ofcom will consider the decision on proposed closure.



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Duror's Joey skippers Children in Need sailing challenge

A Duror man is planning a sailing challenge this November to raise funds for Children In Need.

Joey Gough, 71, will skipper Oban yacht Tangle o' the Isles with a crew of four experienced sailors to sail continuously round the Island of Mull, starting tomorrow (Friday November 8) for a week, coinciding with the duration of the BBC's Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge.

Not only is this a huge challenge for the team, but a massive personal challenge for Joey, who is recovering from major surgery.

Since his 10-hour operation at the end of August he has been working hard to regain fitness for skippering the yacht – a First 32s5 – for the event. Joey had surgery and radiotherapy for cancer in 2010/11. But an unexpected level of damage from that radiotherapy necessitated this recent surgery.

Joey, a past Commodore of both Oban Sailing Club and Royal Highland Yacht Club, is an experienced Argyll sailor having raced all over the world.

To help him with the challenge, he has enlisted similarly experienced local sailors Twig Olsen (Taynuilt), Christine MacFarlane Slack (Balachullish), Colin Campbell (Acharacle) and Robert Bradley (Melbourne). In 2013, Joey and Robert won the 5,500-mile Melbourne to Osaka race, sailing in Robert's yacht, so Robert is no stranger to challenging ocean sailing conditions.

The Tangle team aim to raise as much money as they can for the fund-raising spectacular BBC Children in Need appeal 2019.

Joey said: 'No one sails on the west of Scotland in November for fun and especially not at night. These are tricky waters to navigate and the weather will be extremely challenging, potentially cold, wet and uncomfortable. This is going to be a tough eight days and nights.'

'Despite the experience of the crew, or perhaps because of the experience of the crew, we know this will be a real challenge.'



Joey Gough from Duror is no stranger to a sailing challenge.

But we're doing it to earn your sponsorship – and every penny will go to Children in Need, which is such a worthwhile cause. Please give generously – we have a JustGiving site set up via our web page www.tangleotheisles.com.

Joey added: 'We have already decided on the upper limits of extreme weather where we would shelter as required. The boat is fully kitted out for offshore sailing and the sailing challenge will be carried out with safety uppermost in our minds.'

During the challenge, the team will be regularly streaming video reports accessible via the website and social media, and Tangle o' the Isles will be trackable on AIS.

The graphics on Tangle's hull outline the aim of the challenge – sailing continuously Round Mull for a period in November.

A raft of commercial supporters have already given help in kind to get the challenge off the ground.

Oban-based Pole Position has built the website and will offer software support, CGL (Oban) has printed posters and flyers advertising the challenge and Navigators

and General are supporting with an insurance extension.

Creran Marine has donated an additional launch and recovery, and Dunstaffnage Marina will provide free berthing before and after the event. Oban-based Art and Sea donated by providing the graphics on Tangle outlining the challenge details and PFM Pictures have given free use of photographs for publicity purposes. Finally, the Bank of Scotland has provided a free of charge account for the Challenge to use.

The sailing team is backed by a shore team of Alison Chadwick, Murray MacDonald and Jude Monson. They will be working to try to make the story go viral on social media. And the Lochaber Times' readers can help by following and spreading the word of the Tangle team's efforts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

For more information, visit www.tangleotheisles.com also to sponsor the team, and a Facebook page to follow progress on the challenge. For any individual queries contact the team at rickshawsailingchallenge@tangleotheisles.com



Kieran Cain, left, and Matt Gloor with the platinum certificate for having a top toilet.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Fort pub is flushed with award success

A Fort William pub has won acclaim for the quality and standards of its toilets – in the Loo of the Year Awards 2019.

The Great Glen in High Street has been awarded a platinum rating by inspectors.

The awards are aimed at highlighting and improving standards of 'away from home' toilet provision across the UK.

Loo of the Year Awards inspectors make unannounced visits to thousands of toilets at sites across the UK, in order to judge them. All the toilets are graded silver, gold, platinum or diamond, with unacceptable toilets not graded at all.

Judged

The toilets are judged against numerous criteria, including décor and maintenance, cleanliness, accessibility, hand washing and drying equipment, and overall management.

The Great Glen, a Wetherspoon pub, is managed by Joy Napier.

Joy said: 'We are delighted with the award. Staff at the pub ensure the toilets are in first-class condition at all times and it is great that this has been recognised by the inspectors.'

The Loo of the Year Awards 2019 managing director, Mike Bone, said: 'The toilets at The Great Glen have been designed and fitted out to a very high standard and are both clean and well maintained.'

'The pub richly deserves its platinum award.'

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LT

ATHLETICS

Lochaber Athletic Club runners in action.

Athletic club to hold AGM

The Lochaber Athletic Club AGM will take place on Sunday, November 17, 7.30pm, at Lochaber Yacht Club, Fort William. Everyone with an interest in athletics in Lochaber is encouraged to attend.

It is a great opportunity to discuss the sport, make suggestions and have a say on how LAC is run. There are opportunities for new committee members. Refreshments and a roaring log fire will be provided. Please go along.

FOOTBALL

Fort William FC.

Fort FC game is called off

Fort William FC's home match against Huntly which was due to be played at Claggan Park last Saturday, had to be postponed due to the pitch being waterlogged.

The referee took the decision to postpone the league clash on the basis that there was, what the club described in a tweet as, an 'unsafe area', which would have become an issue for player safety.

Fort get back to action on Saturday with a home game against Rothes. This is followed by another home game against Fraserburgh on Saturday November 16.



South Lochaber Thistle FC

No university challenge

South Lochaber Thistle's scheduled home game against Glasgow University did not go ahead last Saturday as the university was unable to field a team.

This Saturday the Jags are at home to Cambria.

LOTTERY NUMBERS**Lochaber club lotteries**

Ballachulish shinty lottery numbers for November 3 were 18, 19 and 20. Agnes Davren in Invercoe won the £200 on offer. Next week's draw will be another £200.

Caol Community Centre Bingo Club lotto numbers for November 3 were 2, 7 and 18. There were no winners so the pot goes up to £400 next week.

Caol Regeneration Lotto numbers for October 31 were 10, 16 and 20. There were no winners so a £900 jackpot is available for next draw today, Thursday November 7.

Fort William Golf Club Lotto numbers for October 31 were 4, 16 and 17. There were no winner so £1,200 is available for the draw on November 7.

Primary athletes battle it out in annual triathlon

Lochaber Primary Schools Triathlon took place last week as part of the Active Schools, Lochaber Leisure Centre and Primary PE annual calendar of events.

It consists of swim, bike and run legs, with each school entering a mixed team of three pupils.

Three swimmers at this year's event managed to break the three-minute barrier for the 200m swim, a feat which has only been achieved once before by Evie-Jay Clark in 2016, who still retains the record for the championships.

Calum Stewart, from Bunscoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, took the gold in a time of 2.52, with Andzelina Gerasimuka from Lundavra and Mya MacCallum from Invergarry touching at the same time to share the silver, posting a time of 2.59.

Swim over, the event moved to the Braveheart car park where the bikers were ready to take on their 4km ride. The



The overall winning team from Lundavra primary were, from left, Jamie Cameron, Aiden Cummings and Andzelina Gerasimuka.

event was won comfortably by Aiden Cummings in an impressive time of 10.02, with second place going to Lex Edgar from Inverlochty, in 10.21. Alan Cameron from Spean Bridge took the bronze, completed the course in 10.30.

The run also started in the Braveheart car park with

runners setting off up the steep path out of Braveheart, towards the Saltire rock on Cow Hill before dropping back down to the Leisure Centre.

Ross Loughray showed his fitness, taking first place in 9.03, followed by Dharas Barreno from Invergarry, in 9.21, with the third spot being

TRIATHLON

claimed by Sandy Halewood, in a time of 9.30 – a full minute ahead of the fourth-placed runner.

At the end of the race the overall results were Lundavra first in a time of 23.33, Invergarry in second, completing the course in 23.55 and rounding off the podium in a time of 25.11 was Spean Bridge Primary.

A huge shout of congratulations has to go to all of the children who took part in what is a great introduction to multi-sport events and to the parents and teachers who took them along.

A massive thanks also went to Stevie Martin, both junior and senior, at Lochaber Leisure Centre for managing the swimming element, to No Fuss Events for donating medals, to the Lochaber High School pupils who marshalled the event and, of course, to the organisers.

Nearly 50 climbers will descend on Kinlochleven

Almost 50 climbers from throughout Scotland and as far afield as the Lake District are expected to descend on Ice Factor at Kinlochleven when the Scottish Mixed Masters event returns for the 12th consecutive year.

Last year the event was won by Aberdeenshire-based climber Joe Saunders and GB Ice Climbing squad member Emma Powell. It requires competitors to use their ice axes to tackle a series of 'problems' set on the rock and ice walls.

The competitors keep their own scores throughout, with the highest scorers competing in a timed final.

Judges award points for the speed in which each competitor completes the various routes with a grand final held to determine the winner.

Kev Shields, co-organiser of the event on Saturday

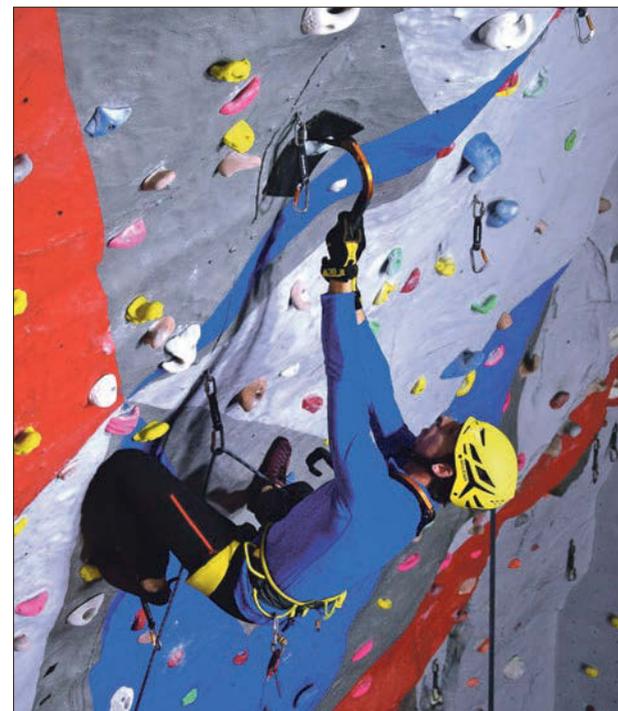
CLIMBING

November 16, and one of the country's leading para climbers, is hopeful of Ice Factor, home of the world's largest indoor ice-climbing walls, once again attracting a strong field.

He commented: 'The Scottish Mixed Masters is a terrific competition that tests competitors on their technique and fitness on routes set on both indoor ice and rock walls.'

'Last year it was leading GB climber Emma (Powell) and ex-Ice Factor instructor Joe Saunders who climbed off with the silverware and they will again face stiff competition during an event that is both challenging for participants and exciting to watch.'

'There is always a good atmosphere for the Scottish



The Ice factor at Kinlochleven is set to host the event.

Mixed Masters that is being supported in 2019 by Ice Factor, DMM, Rab and Psychi.'

Proceeds from the event will be donated to Erskine, the non-profit making charity that cares for veterans.



Thirteen-year-old Josh Dieguno in action against Ben Bonner from the Granite City Club of Aberdeen.



Phoenix boxer Farquhar MacRae gave an excellent account of himself on his debut which was an exhibition bout against Scottish Champion Scott Edwards.

Big crowd at first Lochaber boxing show for two years

Continued from page 88
to be the difference, helping him to a points victory.

Aitchison also gained the distinction of becoming the first Lochaber Phoenix boxer to compete in every age category in boxing from schoolboy to senior.

Reigning Scottish schoolboy

Josh Dieguno unfortunately came out on the wrong end of a decision against another Granite City boxer, Ben Bonnar.

Slow start

Dieguno finished the bout strongly but unfortunately a slow start cost him the chance of victory.

There were debuts in two exhibitions for senior boxers Farquhar MacRae, at heavy-weight, and Siobhan Duncan, at welterweight, who became Fort William's first ever female boxer, who both boxed much more experienced opposition.

Both showed tremendous

BOXING

potential in what was the perfect preparation for their first competitive contests which will come this weekend in the Scottish novice championships at Ravenscraig, Motherwell.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos and Abrightside Photography



Siobhan Duncan was making her debut.



Lochaber boxer Kevin Aitchison was one of Saturday night's winning fighters.



Lochaber Phoenix boxers, from left, Farquhar MacRae, Siobhan Duncan, Josh Dieguno and Kevin Aitchison.



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WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures 2°C to 7°C.

Friday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday
Light rain and a moderate breeze
Sunday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday November 7, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	02.56	2.9	08.38	1.8
	14.57	3.4	21.17	1.8
Fri	03.22	3.1	09.29	1.6
	15.31	3.6	21.53	1.6
Sat	03.48	3.4	10.09	1.4
	16.04	3.7	22.44	1.4
Sun	04.18	3.6	10.42	1.3
	16.36	3.9	22.53	1.2
Mon	04.50	3.8	11.12	1.2
	17.10	4.0	23.24	1.1
Tues	05.21	3.9	11.41	1.1
	17.42	4.1	23.55	1.0
Wed	05.49	3.9	12.11	1.1
	18.12	4.1	***	**

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Chain, shackles and buoys all available to purchase.

Nearly 50 climbers
will descend
on Kinlochleven

Primary athletes
battle it out in
annual triathlon

Phoenix fight night draws large crowd

Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club rose like its proverbial namesake on Saturday night at the Nevis Centre in Fort William when it held its first boxing show in two years to a packed attendance, which enjoyed 13 high quality boxing matches.

Not only did the night feature four Lochaber boxers in matches against boxers from other Scottish clubs but also nine international bouts as the Boxing Scotland Development squad faced their English counterparts in an international duel which featured Scottish, English, GB and European champions and medallists.

The event was a first for the Highlands and great credit must go to the new look Lochaber Phoenix backroom staff of coaches Adam Watson and Kevin Kennedy, Stephen McManus (who became the first ever Fort William-born judge to officiate at an international meeting) and club president Iain Ferguson, who banded together to produce a fantastic night's entertainment.

Topping the bill was Lochaber's Kevin Aitchison, who boxed at middleweight against Granite City's Anthony Guture in a bout that went back and forth with both boxers enjoying periods of success but the more educated jab of Aitchison proved



Lochaber's Kevin Aitchison, right, won his senior contest and headline bout of the evening against Granite City's Anthony Guture. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



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